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A HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR DRAFT
IN WISCONSIN

by
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I

When the great Civil War broke upon this country the National Government found Wisconsin to be one of its most loyal states. Enthusiasm for the Union ran high as Wisconsin was a republican state and, in fact had been the founder of the new Republican Party. Political opinion in the state was divided into two factions, Republicans and Democrats. Among the latter was the copperhead element which though not strong could cause considerable trouble. Opinion in Wisconsin was shaped somewhat by the nature of the population. Wisconsin had been the haven of great numbers of foreigners who came here because it was a rich agricultural region, and at that time what might be called a frontier state. The larger part of these foreigners were German. Attempts had been made to make Wisconsin a German state by offering special inducements to immigrants. To secure the right of voting but one year of residence was required.¹ Milwaukee was the landing place of most of these people, and from here they spread out to the interior to develop the new land waiting for the axe and the plow. Between 1850 and 1860 Wisconsin received more of the German influx to this country than any other state.² The foreigners were usually democratic in views, and they united against know-nothingism. Many of them were ignorant and proved an easy prey for professional politicians who needed their support. ^{not true}

1 Faust, Albert German Element in the United States.

(New York 1909) Houghton Mifflin & Co. p. 469.

2 Ibid. p. 469.

Economically the state was in the process of formation. The northwestern part was as yet sparsely settled and in the northern part was a territory not yet cut up into counties. Here there were no railroads but the principal points communicated with the outside world by means of the stage coach. Word could not be received from some parts in less time than two weeks. Through out the state was scattered a population of 775,881 of which 276,927 were foreign born³. One would not expect a population with so large a percent of foreigners to be as enthusiastic about the Union as one made up largely of native Americans, but when the first call came for volunteers on April 14th, the quota of Wisconsin was 780 men and the state furnished 817 men. On May 3rd a second call came and the quota of Wisconsin was 21,753 and the state furnished 25,499 men. More men were available than would be accepted by the National Government.

In the spring of 1862 there were in the Union Army 637,126 men and the prevailing impression was that this would be enough to crush the rebellion, and in order to cut down the expenses of the Government the recruiting service of the state was closed on April 3rd, and the property at the places of rendez vous was sold. The unfavorable turn of the war after April 1862 and the depletion of the army in the field brought a new demand for men and so on June 6th, 1862 the recruiting business was again started up, but the business had so effectively closed that its resumption was attended with difficulties. Men had returned to peaceful pursuits and had become busily engaged. The novelty of entering the military service which always comes at the outbreak of a war began to fade away and as news of the disaster to the Union Army came home from the front the enthusiasm for war received a chill.

This new demand for men brought up the question of how many men each state should furnish as its share to the Union Army. The troops previous to this had been accepted regardless of the place from which they came. In order to determine this the following method was adopted: the population of the state was compared to that of all the states from which troops were required. The proportion of troops which should have been furnished by any state was to the number furnished from all the states as the number of inhabitants of that state was to the aggregate number of inhabitants of all the states. The solution of this proportion gave the number Wisconsin should have furnished up to July 2nd, 1862. If any state had a deficit it was added on to this, but as has been shown Wisconsin had an excess of volunteers and the Governor was not permitted to raise more.

* * * *

II

On July 2nd, 1862, President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers. But volunteering had nearly ceased and great efforts were made to arouse the latent enthusiasm. Governor Salomon divided the state into five regimental districts as nearly even as possible in population and each one was to furnish one regiment, thus making up the quota of five regiments(4) Arrangements were made by the Governor for a state bounty resembling that of New York, the funds to be raised by private contributions and loans, on the faith that the legislature would later authorize the re payment of these contributions . But before arrangements were completed for the raising and handling of this fund, President Lincoln had called for 300,000 more men (on August 4) to be furnished by August 15, and if they were not, a draft for the deficiency was to be made . This short time allowed for the raising of these troops made the bounty system impractical .

Then too, the calls came in the middle of the summer, and the laborers who made up a large share of the population were busy gathering in the harvest and it was quite impossible for them to get away. The quota for the first call was supposed to be 5000 men, at least that was the impression created at Madison, and the quota for the second call was 11,904 men. Considerable discussion arose as to the accuracy of these figures and Governor Salomon began a correspondence with the War Department to get the matter settled definitely, and he was informed that the quota for each call was 11,904 men, but enlistments for old regiments might be credited on this, also that the state was to get

credit for any excess it might have.⁽⁵⁾ If old regiments were not filled by August 15, a special draft was to take place to fill them. The quota was 20,008, after deducting the excess of men above all calls, but the quotas had already been apportioned under the supposition that 16,808 was the required number and the Governor did not like to change it lest it might cause considerable dissatisfaction .

Neither the state nor the National Government had ever resorted to conscription to fill up the army and so there were no state laws regarding it. It was quite contrary to the past military policy of the American people, and what was worse, Wisconsin contained foreigners who had come here to escape the compulsory military service of their native land. There was no enrollment of the arms bearing population of the state and so this had to be done before a draft could be resorted to. The assessors of the different towns had been instructed by the Governor to make such an enrollment but it had never been satisfactorily accomplished, and the Governor found himself called upon to perform a duty without any regulations to guide him . Thereupon he called upon the War Department for orders and the Secretary of War established rules and regulations for the draft. The quota of the state was given to the Governor and he was to apportion it among the different towns and wards according to the population⁽⁶⁾ and not according to the number of men liable to military duty because the enrollment was not completed. In this method of procedure the localities that had been patriotic got no credit for it, but had to furnish as

5 Senate Journal, 1863 p, 25.

6 Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies,
Series 3, v. 1, p, 334.

many men as one which was not so loyal.

The sheriffs of the counties were ordered to make an enrollment of all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and they were given the power to appoint deputies to aid them in the work. After the lists were completed they were to be posted in some public place for at least three days to enable the people to make corrections if necessary. The enrollment showed 127,894 men subject to military duty, of ^{whom} ~~which~~ 28,012 were exempt for disability and other causes. The enrolling officers encountered considerable difficulty in getting the rolls corrected as many were foreigners and of course they asked for exemption on the grounds of alienage. Some of them it seems had exercised the franchise right and were therefore liable. To settle the matter the War Department ordered that anyone exercising the franchise right was subject to military duty⁽⁷⁾. The sheriffs were to retain one copy of the lists and were to forward one to office of the Adjutant General, and this was to be in by September 1. To carry on the work the Governor appointed a draft commissioner and an examining surgeon for each county. All claims for exemption were to be made to these officers and if the claims were just exemption was granted, and when this was completed the sheriffs⁽⁸⁾ sent in the rolls to the Adjutant General. These officers were paid by the National Government at the rate of four dollars per day.⁽⁹⁾

7 Adjutants Generals report, 1862, p. 78.

8 Ibid. p. 81.

9 Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series 3, v. 2, p. 334.

7

The War Department sent out regulations declaring the following people exempted from the draft; all persons in the military service, all telegraph operators and constructors actually engaged on August 5, all engineers of locomotives, all artificers and workman employed in any public arsenal or armory, all post - office and stage drivers who were employed in carrying the mail, members of Congress, all ferrymen who were employed on any ferry on the post road: all pilots; all marines employed in the sea - service of any merchant or citizen of the United States; all engineers and pilots of registered or licensed steamboats and steamships; and all persons exempted by the laws of the respective states from military duty.⁽¹⁰⁾ Men drafted were to assemble at the county seat within five days, where transportation was to be furnished them to the place of rendez vous by the Governor. They were examined here by the examining surgeon and if accepted they were grouped in squads and sent to rendez vous. Then they were organized by the Adjutant General into companies and regiments of infantry, by assigning one hundred and one men to each company and ten companies to each regiment and then a copy of the organization was sent to the commandant at rendez vous.⁽¹¹⁾

The order had been given for a draft on August 15, if the quota was not full, but it was entirely impossible to draft for men at that time, because the rolls had not yet been made. Governor Salomon

10. Official Records, S.3 v.2 p . 334 .

11. Ibid. p.335. General order No.99 sent out to states where no draft laws existed.

wrote to Stanton on August 11, as follows; " Orders and arrangements for the draft are received from Adjutant General. I am proceeding to the enrollment, and will have it completed as soon as possible. It will be at least the 10th of September before drafting can actually commence. Volunteering in this state has been delayed by the harvest, but I think we shall fill our first call by the 15th. The spirit of volunteering to avoid the draft is very active.. I am constantly besieged by letters and dispatches from towns to know whether if they furnish their quotas of volunteers for both calls ,they will be exempt from the draft. The plan of only receiving volunteers for old regiments after the 15th instant will work badly if the localities are not to be credited with those volunteers; for all such volunteers being taken will, of course, increase the chance of draft in the localities from which they go. It is very desirable that we should be allowed to receive volunteers and organize regiments down to the time when the draft begins. If so ,it will greatly accelerate the filling of our quota. If you prefer ,fix a later day for this state, beyond which volunteering cannot be received. Fix 10th September if possible, or 31st August if you cannot take so late a date. To cut off volunteering by the 15th of August will check the spirit among the loyal people of this state, who are thoroughly aroused to the determination to fill all by volunteering if they can be allowed to do so by giving them time enough. Do not put a damper upon the present enthusiasm of our people. If the Government will allow this, I will assign enough of the volunteers to fill the old regiments from this

9

state. I must have the authority asked for. To cut off volunteering in this state when it takes ten days to reach the most distant portions is unfair and unjust, and our people so feel it.⁽¹²⁾ Certainly with conditions as described, Governor Salomon was placed in a trying position. He wanted to do his duty toward the national Government, and at the same time he could not turn a deaf ear to the voice of his people. If volunteering were shut off at this time it would be like drafting a man before he had a chance to volunteer.

Salomon did not hear from Stanton until August 14, concerning his request. On that day he received a general order⁽¹³⁾ on the subject the text of was; 1st. That after the 15th day of this month, bounty and advance pay shall not be paid to volunteers for any new regiments, but only to volunteers now in the field and volunteers to fill up the new regiments now organizing but not yet full.

2nd. Volunteers to fill new regiments now organizing will be received and paid the bounty and advance pay until the 22nd day of this month. If not completed then the regiments will be consolidated.

3rd. Volunteers for old regiments were to be received until September 1st.

4th. Draft was to be made on September 3rd between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. and continued from day to day until completed.

12. Official Records, Series 3, v.2 p. 357.

13. Ibid. p. 380.

10

5th. If old regiments were not full September 1, a draft was to take place to fill them.

6th. No furloughs were to be granted.

The Governor was given permission to postpone the draft if he could not carry it out on September 3, and the draft was accordingly set for a later date. The Governor immediately sent the following note to the War Department.

" In reply to yours of this date, I would say, that a special enrollment of the militia was ordered and the instructions sent out August 10; that some portions of the state have no railroads nor telegraphs and can not be reached in less than a fortnight by mail. The returns were ordered to be made September 1, at farthest. It will take some time to collect these returns when made; we can not possibly carry into effect the order for September 3., but will do it as soon as possible thereafter."

Meanwhile the work of preparing for the draft went on. The work of enrolling the men was a long and tedious job. Governor Salomon wrote to Stanton on August 26; "...What course shall I take where in a township no man will serve as enrolling officer and the people refuse to give their names and abandon their houses when an officer comes to enroll them?" (14) This was not an uncommon affair in the east central portion of Wisconsin where the population was largely foreign. The men would flee and the women refused to tell where they had gone and sometimes they even were bold enough to attack the officers. Stanton sent the following

14. Official Records, Series 3, ii, p.482.

reply: "In the case supposed in your telegram of yesterday afternoon, I do not know anything better than to let them slide."

Such a policy would delay the work, and besides, was an injustice to those regions that were loyal, but under the circumstances and with so short a time ahead it was about all that could be done. There was a general prejudice against the system of conscription from the start, and when Governor Salomon called the Legislature in extra session in September, 1862, he asked for the passage of militia laws so that the draft would be more equitable and just. The Governor advised a law that divided the men liable to military duty into two classes, first, the young men and those unmarried up to about the age of thirty five, and second, the rest up to the age of forty five. Then the young men were to be called on first. The legislature failed to take action on this matter until the session of 1863¹⁵ came. A state law exempted from military duty active and retired firemen and officers who were or had been commissioned in the militia. In writing to Stanton the Governor refers to these as paper officers and advises the Secretary that these men should not be exempt.

Governor Salomon was one of the great many who believed that if volunteering had not been cut off by the National Government when it was the state could have filled the entire quota by volunteering, and he suggested to the War Department that it would be more satisfactory and speedy to do so. (16)

15. Wisconsin State Journal, Sept. 10, 1862.

16. Wis. State Jour. Sept. 11, 1862.

III

Quotas assigned. The Draft executed.

The quotas assigned to the different counties for the draft were (17)

Brown	155	Marathon	19
Buffalo	16	Marquette	131
Dane	114	Milwaukee	---
Dodge	294	Outagamie	99
Door	63	Ozaukee	529
Dunn	---	Pepin	74
Green	97	Racine	194
Green Lake	74	Rock	---
Iowa	223	Sheboygan	205
Jefferson	63	Shawano	---
Kenosha	180	Vernon	12
Kewaunee	---	Waukesha	181
Lafayette	148	Waushara	5
Washington	807		
Manitowoc	438		

The counties marked with a dash had not reported the returns of the enrollment. The counties not mentioned had an excess of volunteers and so no draft was necessary. By October 24, all the quotas had been made with the exception of Milwaukee, Kewaunee, and Washington Counties. Kewaunee and Washington Counties were assigned their quota shortly after this, while

17. Adjutant General's Report, 1862. p. 209.

that of Milwaukee County was made on November 7. The quota for the county was 728, and for the City of Milwaukee 456.⁽¹⁸⁾

The Governor ordered that the draft take place on November 10, and continue until all quotas were full. Drafting was to be done by towns. The commissioner drafted in the towns of his county in regular order. In Milwaukee County the sheriff was detected in making gross errors. Some names had been counted three or four times, and many names had been returned which could not be found on the muster rolls. By this means the quota of Milwaukee County was only 105, but when properly done it should have been over seven hundred, so the whole thing had to be gone over again.⁽¹⁹⁾ Evidence of gross injustice in the surgical examinations came to light in Manitowoc County and a whole new re-examination was ordered thereby putting this county so far back that it could not draft in 1862 at all.

When the order for the draft came excitement reigned supreme, especially in the eastern and southern counties. The newspapers helped the excitement on by their sensational headlines. Many expected a squad of armed soldiers would appear at their doors with handcuffs and chains to take all the inmates at all hazards.⁽²⁰⁾ And as the excitement grew in intensity and ~~extensivity~~ threats of resistance were heard on every side. Many of the foreigners could not read English, and the German papers were so disloyal that had they been printed in English no doubt they would have been suppressed.

19. Adjutant General's Report, 1862. p. 146.

18. Quotas for the towns of Wisconsin are given in the Adjutant General's Report 1862, pp. 209-10.

As the time for draft approached the different towns made supreme efforts to fill their quotas by volunteering. War meetings were held in the school houses and speakers were in great demand. Men who never spoke before nor afterward were found to be fountains of patriotic eloquence.⁽²¹⁾ Some of them no doubt were anxious to have some one else go so that they in turn would not be drafted. The Crescent, the leading newspaper of Outagamie County says that towns held meetings to arouse enthusiasm for volunteering. The town of Hortonville in August 1862 pledged ten recruits and agreed to give them a special bounty of fifty dollars each. "This splendid and patriotic act was favorably commented on by the local newspapers." "It put a spur in the ribs of every other town in the county."⁽²²⁾ This, with the appeals of the orators, stimulated enthusiasm to fever heat. The county board was asked to offer a fifty dollar bounty. In one evening in the town of Dale nine of those present at the meeting volunteered.⁽²³⁾ This was exceptionally good when the fact is considered that prior to August 1862 one hundred men had left this county to enlist elsewhere.

William S. Warner was a candidate for district attorney in Outagamie county. He offered to give one half of his salary so long as the war lasted, if he was elected, for the relief of soldiers' families. In this county the county bounty was given only to married men.

20. Butterfield, C.W. History of Fon du Lac County.

(Chicago 1880) Western Historical Co. p. 551.

21. Butterfield, C.W. History of Waukesha County.

(Chicago 1880) Western Historical Co. p. 521.

On November 10, ninety-nine men were drafted from Outagamie county. They had twenty days in which to procure a substitute. The drafted men were ordered to go home and to report at Appleton the following Wednesday. The Crescent of November 29, 1862 says in regard to their returning to town, "Tremendous excitement:- Drafted Greenvillians take Appleton. On Wednesday last, seven wagons loaded with drafted men from Greenville, with flags waving in the breeze and a band of music came into town to report for duty. They rode through the principal streets, stopping in front of our office and favored the Crescent with three rousing cheers, for which we tendered our thanks. Mutual good feeling prevailed among that entire democratic body." The big scare seemed to have come to the men before the drafting. Men who had always boasted of their robust health suddenly became stricken with a kind of draft malaria, and could hardly walk to the office of the commissioner. The Saturday Reporter of Ron du Lac on September 3, said:- "For one whole week the draft commissioner's and surgeon's office in this city has been crowded with applicant's for exemption. The sidewalk in front of the stairway in Darling's block has been crowded and the passage crammed full. A large number of certificates have been filled attesting to the great degree of mortality prevailing. No doubt in many cases the applicants were unfit for military duty and

22. Bothwell & Goodspeed. History of Outagamie County.

(Chicago 1911) Goodspeed Historical Assoc. p. 318.

23. Ibid. p. 318

should not be abused for applying there, but so many robust and healthy men have come up that some wag put up a sign over the door labeled "cowards' headquarters". Men learned of the sudden and dangerous illness of friends in Canada and ten left Waukesha in one night. Thirteen left Oconomowoc on a certain Sunday evening. Canada did not appear to have enough people to take care of its sick and the people had to go. (24)

The draft commenced on November 10 with the exception of Milwaukee County, where it had been postponed until the nineteenth because of the threatened riot and the citizens had asked for longer time to perfect the rolls. Meanwhile in Ozaukee County things had taken a turn for the worst. This county was strongly foreign and had always been democratic. In 1860 Douglas had 1823 votes while Lincoln had 627. (25) Some maintained that the manner in which the draft was conducted caused the riot rather than a desire to oppose the government. Both causes helped to precipitate the trouble. The minds of the people were in such a state that any provocation would have started them. The people had selected A.M. Blair as draft commissioner and Dr. Stillman as surgeon and asked the governor to appoint them. Salomon appointed William A. Pors and Dr. Hartwig. Considerable dissatisfaction was found in the examinations, some believing that wealth and position had great weight in getting exempt. ✓

On the morning of November 10, 1862, Mr. Pors and his assistants went to the courthouse to begin the draft, when he was siezed by the crowd which numbered about 1000 people variously armed and inflamed by whiskey. It consisted mostly of Germans

24. Butterfield, C.W. Hist. of Waukesha Co. p. 521.

and Belgians commonly called Luxemburgers. None of them were Irish. The rolls were seized and destroyed and Pors was dragged to the door and thrown down the steps sustaining some injury. He fled to the postoffice and concealed himself in the cellar for a time, and later fled to Milwaukee. They then marched to his residence and demolished it, and not satisfied with this they destroyed the property of a number of other citizens.

" By this time the mob had become furious and seemed bent on the destruction of both life and property. Dividing into squads, one division proceeded to the store of John Droecker and compelled him to paint him a banner with the words " no draft ", and with this motto floating to the breeze they continued their wanton course destroying property as they went.... (26) The anti - draft faction being composed mostly of Catholics, naturally got the masons mixed up in the affair, and the mob began to hunt out the masons as objects for attack. The other squad consisting of the rough class made the rounds of the saloons and compelled the proprietor to give them liquor, after which they rushed through the streets crazed with drink, and yelling ' no draft ' ' burn the public buildings ' . Mr. Towsley, a lawyer of Port Washington, was seized and nearly killed by the mob, but managed to get away from them. John R. Bohan, editor of the Ozaukee County Advertiser, when on the way to his office was seized and made to paint the sign ' no draft, no destruction of property ', by the more conservative faction who put this afloat in the breeze. This compulsory piece of work came near costing the

25. Butterfield, C.W. History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

(Chicago 1881) Western Historical Co., p. 489. (26) Ibid. p. 494.

editor two months imprisonment at Madison, but he said later, " when a man's life's at stake he is willing to take chances on the law'.

The rioters got possession of a four pound cannon used for Fourth of July celebrations and loaded it with the only ball they could find, then mounted it on the pier and defied Uncle Sam to come and arrest them. Eight companies of soldiers were sent over from Milwaukee by order of the Governor. They were taken by boat up to within five miles of the city and unloaded. On Friday, November 14, they surrounded the town while the Provost Marshal aided by soldiers marched in and began to arrest the leaders. At the approach of the soldiers the rioters hid in barns and sheds, while some took to the woods, but were met by the soldiers outside the city and arrested. The presence of Uncle Sam had been too much for them.⁽²⁷⁾ Eighty were convicted in the Provost Marshal's court and taken to Milwaukee by boat. The company marched through the streets of Milwaukee in the form of a square with the prisoners in the center, so as to make the affair as imposing as possible for the benefit of the people there who might try to resist the authority also. The prisoners were kept at Camp Washburn for a time and then transferred to the Bull Pen at Madison. In all about 130 were convicted and held here. This riot no doubt would kindle the ire of the Irish and German element in Milwaukee which had threatened resistance,

27. West Bend Post. Nov. 15, 1862.

so Governor Salomon proceeded to shut the lid on tight. He issued a proclamation to the people of Ozaukee County to this effect; (November 11)

" Information has reached me of a disgraceful and violent disturbance of the public peace and forcible resistance to the draft, accompanied with personal violence to the commissioner, for drafting, and other persons, and destruction of property in your county. I have taken steps to have the perpetrators and abettors of these crimes promptly arrested. They as well as every person interfering with or resisting the draft, will be arrested and punished according to the Proclamation of the President of United States of September 25th , 1862.

It is one of the inherent and necessary powers of every government to call upon its citizens, or subjects, to take up arms in its defence. This power exists beyond question in the Government of United States. An act of Congress has authorized the President to call out the militia, and the draft ordered in this state, as in all other loyal states, is made in pursuance of that act of Congress. Resistance by you to the Government of the United States, or of this state, is both wrong and vain, and can only lead to calamity and misfortune to those who attempt it. The draft will be executed in your county, as well as in every other county of the state where it has been ordered.

I have sent a sufficient military power into your county under the command of the special Provost Marshal of the state, appointed by the President of United States for such and other purposes, in order to arrest those who are guilty of the recent

violent resistance to the draft, and to see that the draft is properly enforced in your county, and I now call on you to make no further resistance to the lawfully constituted authorities, but to submit to the laws of the country...." (28)

Two days before the draft was to take place in Milwaukee, the Governor issued a Proclamation to the people of that county, (November 17th) in which he said:

" ...as chief executive of this state it is my duty to execute this draft. A sufficient military force has been employed to protect the officers who have been trusted with the execution of this law in your county, to enforce obedience to it, and promptly to suppress any tumultuous or riotous proceedings.

I trust it will not become necessary to employ force in order to enforce the law and maintain peace in your community, but should it become necessary I shall not shrink from the responsibility which the laws impose upon me. Your county and its several towns and wards has been justly and fairly treated in the apportionment of the number of men required and leniency was even shown you by extension of time in order that volunteers or substitutes might be provided. If bloodshed should occur, the responsibility must fall upon the heads of those who resist the laws. My duty is to see them enforced. The disgraceful scenes that recently occurred in a neighboring county shall not be re-enacted in your community...."(29)

He closed by appealing to the people to submit to the laws.

28. Thwaites, R.G. Messages and Proclamations of Wisconsin's War Governors, (Madison 1912) Wisconsin Historical Commission, p. 147-48. (29) Ibid. p. 150.

What effect these had on the people is hard to determine, but the presence of troops was sufficient to quell their riotous spirits. The military was placed under Colonel Starkweather and when the draft took place all the roads leading to the city were picketed, and soldiers were stationed around in squads, to assemble at a given notice. Companies were marched through the streets so as to impress upon the people the earnestness of the Government. (30) The draft went on without disturbance. At West Bend, in Washington County, The commissioner was attacked but he managed to break away from his assailants and fled from the city. The muster rolls were saved by a girl who spirited them away in the excitement. Four companies of the Thirty-first Regiment were sent there immediately. The sight of the blue-coats took all desire to resist out of them, and the Marshal went on and completed the draft. The draft in Manitowoc County was not completed until the Spring of 1863.

As soon as the draft was made the notices were written out and given to the Deputy Marshals of the several counties, who were made responsible for serving them on the persons drafted. Sometimes the person could not be found and the officer worked in vain. If the person was absent the officer had to report where they could be found. The drafted men were assembled at the County Seat and examined, if exempted they were allowed to go, if not exempted they were made up into squads and sent under guard to places of rendez vous at the expense of the Government. Before being sent they were registered and examined by the physician, and if the person claimed exemption his case was heard by the board and if they voted to exempt him the proper papers were made out and

A typical draft notice.

Sheboygan, Nov. 12, 1862.

1st ward.

To Fritz Schraeder

Sir:

You are hereby notified that your name was duly enrolled upon the list of your county, and that you have been drafted therefrom into the service of United States to serve for nine months unless sooner discharged. You will appear in person at the county seat of your county, on the --18-- inst, for transportation to the camp of rendez vous for your regiment at Oshtemo.

Substitute may be offered at rendez vous.

George S. Graves

Draft Commissioner Sheboygan Co.

presented to him. If held he was asked if he desired a substitute. If he was a reliable man or had some one to vouch for him, he was granted a few days to look for one. Otherwise he was sent to rendez vous.⁽³¹⁾ The substitute got his money when he got to the general rendez vous. The drafted man took his substitute to the Post Commandant and as soon as he was accepted the principal was released.

The camps of rendez vous for drafted men were at the following places; for Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Kenosha, Racine, and Kewaunee Counties at Camp Utley, Racine, under Lieutenant David Lane. For Brown, Dodge, Door, Outagamie, Marathon, Milwaukee Ozaukee and Washington Counties at Camp Washburn, Milwaukee, under Lieutenant Colonel H.L. Page. For Vernon, Buffalo, Dane, Iowa, Green, Green Lake, Marquette, Jefferson, Pepin, Waukesha, and Waushara at Camp Randall, Madison, under Captain E.R. Chase. It was the intention to form the 34 and 35 regiments of these drafted men, but they were given a chance to volunteer for three years in old regiments with bounty and advance pay, or for nine months without the bounty and advance pay, and so many volunteered that there were not enough left, so they were consolidated into the 34th regiment at Camp Washburn. The camp at Racine was broken up in December 1862, and the one at Madison on January 2, 1863, leaving but one at Milwaukee. The regiment was officered under the rules and regulations of the War Department, and the

30. Quiner, E.B. Military History of Wisconsin,

(Chicago 1866), Clark & Co., p. 148.

31. At the county seat the commissioner appointed a lance Corporal for every eight men and a lance Sergeant for every sixteen.

Commissions were filled out by appointment by the Governor. To relieve hardships that might come about through the draft, those not drafted who were appointed to commissions could enlist as substitutes for other men. (32) The regiment of 961 men left the state January 24, 1863, for Columbus Kentucky, and served until August 17, at which time they returned to Milwaukee and were mustered out on September 8. It was composed mostly of Germans and Belgians. The report says that they became proficient in drill and attached to the service, and many of them re-enlisted in the 35 regiment then forming.

The results of the draft of 1862 were not at all gratifying and it looks like a grave mistake that the Government shut off volunteering in August. The draft proved to be a very slow process of raising troops, and its only good side seems to be in that it stimulated enlisting. A little more than twenty-five per cent of the number drafted were mustered in, while about twenty-five per cent failed to report.

Number drafted	4537
Mustered in	1739
Deserted from camp	19
Discharged	988
Reported	2875
Failed to report	1701
Volunteered	491

The result by counties was as follows;

32. Adjutant General's Report, 1862, p.98.

County.	No. drafted	Mustered in	Discharged.	Deserted.	Furlough.	Not reported.
Brown	155	67	44	=	-	41
Buffalo	16	12	2	-	-	2
Dane	76	31	13	2	10	20
Dodge	247	103	55	—	2	87
Door	63	29	27	-	-	7
Green	25	12	1	-	5	7
GreenLake	64	41	8	-	-	15
Iowa	157	55	6	1	1	94
Jefferson	36	15	7	-	3	11
Kenosha	180	83	28	4	5	60
Kewaunee	124	57	25	-	1	41
LaFayette	148	35	28	1	-	84
Manitowoc	397	56	65	5	17	254
Marathon	19	8	7	-	-	4
Marquette	131	52	25	-	4	50
Milwaukee	683	211	157	-	63	252
Outagamie	99	25	15	-	-	59
Ozaukee	521	194	135	-	-	192
Pepin	52	27	12	-	2	11
Racine	184	80	41	3	3	57
Sheboygan	205	119	26	2	3	55
Vernon	12	8	3	-	-	1
Washington	758	289	232	-	-	237
Waukesha	180	91	26	1	5	57
Waushara	5	-	—	—	5	—
Total	4537	1700	988	19	129	1701

Thirty nine were not located but were added to No. mustered in.

26

The table on the former page is found in the Adjutant General's Report for 1863, Schedule D, p. 198.

The Governor sent out agents to arrest those who failed to report, but they either had sick relatives in Canada or took to the brush. The men arrested at Port Washington were held at Camp Randall while Governor Salomon was communicating with Lincoln in regard to what should be done with them. Finally they were turned over to General Pope and later released by order of the Government, and they returned home. The County of Ozaukee then entered upon a plan to rid itself of the draft by organizing in the different towns a club to raise money to offer as local bounty.

An interesting legal case grew out of this riot at Port Washington. Lincoln had ordered a suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus when necessary so that the local courts could not interfere with the carrying out of the draft. One of the men arrested was a Mr. Kemp, who while imprisoned at Camp Randall sued out (December 4, 1862) a writ of habeas corpus in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. This writ was disregarded by the commanding officer (Mr. Elliot) on the ground that Lincoln had authorized the suspension of the writ in case of public necessity. The matter came up for decision in the State Supreme Court on January 13, 1863, and here they held that only Congress had the power to suspend the writ in places where war did not exist. Such a decision coming from a friendly court attracted national attention and required prompt action lest the Democrats make political capital of it for the next election. Two months later Congress gave Lincoln the power.

The map on the opposite page is a railroad map of Wisconsin for 1861. The Central and Northern part of the state were not reached at all by railroads. Oshkosh was the northernmost city reached by the roads.

1	Prairie Du Chien	17	Monroe
2	La Crosse	18	Kenosha
3	Sparta	19	Racine
4	Tomah	20	Milwaukee
5	Oshkosh		
6	Berlin		
7	Fon Du Lac		
8	Sheboygan		
9	Horicorn		
10	Portage		
11	Columbus		
12	Madison		
13	Janesville		
14	Milton Junction		
15	Whitewater		
16	Beloit		

Legislators often travelled from Superior to Madison during the winter by means of snowshoes.



IV.

Attempts to revise the militia laws. Conscription act of March 1863.

One of the results of the draft of 1862 was that it showed the need of legislation pertaining to the carrying on of a draft. It had taken fully five months to get about 1700 men into the army, then too it had worked certain hardships which could easily have been avoided. For instance some families had sent one or two volunteers into the army and the draft took the last supporting member. Many times it took older married men who left families behind, while it passed by the young and vigorous men who would have made more enduring soldiers. When the Legislature convened at Madison on January 14, 1863 the Governor asked for a militia law to remedy these evils, and to provide for any future drafts that might be necessary. Reaxing on the draft he said:

..." Conscription is in my judgment the best, the true and proper of calling into the field the military power of a country; but in order to be effective, it should be governed by just, wise and proper regulations. Under the present law and orders of the War Department the man who is already beyond the prime of his life, whose constitution has been impaired by privations and hard labor, who has a large family dependent on him for their daily bread, who by his industry and daily labor adds to the material wealth of the country, is as liable to be called out as the young man in the vigor of life, with no one dependent on

him for support. We should profit by the laws of other nations and let history teach us by the examples it furnishes. Napoleon's famous armies raised by conscription were made up of young men⁽³³⁾.

The Legislature at this session voted upon the recommendation of the Governor to compensate Mr. Pors 3000 dollars for damages sustained at the hands of the mob at Port Washington. The other men whose property was confiscated were compensated also. The idea was that the National Government would indemnify them later.⁽³⁴⁾ A multitude of special acts were also passed authorizing towns to raise bounties for volunteers, and in the last weeks of March a law organizing the militia and providing for draft was passed, but not until the responsibility of draft had been taken over by the National Government. This militia law divided the militia of the state into two parts, those men in arms and those liable to bear arms. The latter class was divided into three classes or parts and the younger men were to be called out first. The law also provided for the organization of three regiments within three months, and if they were not full by that time a draft was to take place to make up the deficiency. These three regiments were to be used in Wisconsin, but were to be liable to draft by the National Authorities.⁽³⁵⁾ Four regiments were organized by July and so no draft was necessary.

33. Thwaites, Messages and Proc. p. 163.

34. Ibid. P. 184.

35. Adjutant Gen. Report, 1863, p. 157.

The Democrats and Copperheads kept up a continual howl in regard to the draft, and the Governor was the object of much slander and abuse. False charges and unjust discrimination were floating in the air. The democratic side of the Assembly called for the correspondence between Salomon and the War Department. The first motion was voted down however, but later (Jan 31) it was again passed, and Governor Salomon submitted the correspondence on February 5, the contents of which showed how hard and faithfully the Governor had worked to extend the time of drafting, in order to raise the men by volunteering. The very men who voted to have the correspondence submitted, voted not to have it published. It seems that they were afraid the people of the state would see how they had slandered the Governor. (36) Among other things they maintained that the Governor had not tried to prevent the draft of 1862, but had wanted it.

Meanwhile, on the third of March Congress had passed upon the recommendation of President Lincoln, a law providing for National control of the militias of the states. It is commonly known as the Conscription Act. It did not abolish volunteering but rather stimulated it. To enforce the law a bureau was established at Washington and was called the Provost Marshal General's Bureau. Colonel James B. Fry was put at the head. The law divided the military force of the United States into two classes—1st. all able bodied men between the ages of twenty and thirty five years, and those unmarried between the ages of thirty five and forty five. 2nd, consisted of all others up to the age of forty five. Persons of foreign birth who had declared

36. Wisconsin State Journal, Feb. 10, 1863.

on oath their intentions of becoming American citizens were included. Section two of the act exempted the following people: " and be it further enacted, That the following persons be, and they are hereby, excepted and exempted from the provisions of this act, and shall not be liable to military duty under the same, to wit: Such as are rejected as physically or mentally unfit for the service; also, first, the Vice President of United States, Judges of the various courts of the United States, the heads of the various executive departments of the Government, and the Governors of the several states. Secondly, the only son liable to military duty of a widow dependent upon his labor for support, fourth, where there are two or more sons of aged or infirm parents subject to draft, the father or if he be dead, the mother may elect which son shall be exempt. Fifth, the only brother of children not twelve years old, having neither father nor mother dependent upon his labor for support. Sixth, the father of motherless children under twelve years of age dependent upon his labor for support. Seventh, where there are a father and sons in the same family and household, and two of them are in the military service of the United States as non-commissioned officers, musicians, or privates, the residue of such family and household not exceeding two shall be exempt: and no persons but such as herein excepted shall be exempted: provided, however, That no person who has been convicted of felony shall be enrolled or permitted to serve in said forces", (37)

The country was divided into districts co-existing with the

25

Congressional Districts. In each state an Assistant Provost Marshal General was appointed by the President to supervise the work of the state, while in each of the districts was a board of enrollment appointed by the President, and consisted of a Provost Marshal, a Commissioner, and a licensed physician. It was the duty of these boards to subdivide their respective districts into single towns and wards, and an enrolling officer was appointed for each so that the rolls would be corrected before a draft was called.⁽³⁸⁾ Persons whose names appeared on the rolls were subject to call for two years after July 1, 1863. Such men called out were to receive advance pay and bounty, but those who were drafted got no bounty. Persons claiming exemption could appear before the date of draft at the physicians office and have their claims heard.

The quotas were assigned to the various districts and the names of the men in that district were put in the draft wheel and the required number drawn out. The drafted man had ten days in which to report, furnish a substitute, or pay the 300 dollars commutation money. The substitutes received the same pay and bounty as the drafted man. The names not drawn on the draft were exempted from that one draft, but not from future drafts. The drafting was to proceed by towns or wards until the whole district had been covered. Immediately after draft the men had to appear and undergo an examination by the physician, and if unfit they were exempted, but if not, and they did not procure a substitute or pay the commutation money, they were

38. The Conscription Law pp, 88-90 in Official Records

clothed by the Provost Marshal and sent to rendez vous. In regard to bounty the conscript of 1863 ~~fa~~ired better than those of 1862, as they got one-hundred dollars, as did also the conscripts of the Spring of 1864. Yet it was not equal to the bounty of the volunteers.

The first work was to appoint officers for the districts. (Districts of Wisconsin are on the map next page) The following officers were elected ;

1st. District,

I.M.Bean	Provost Marshal
C.V.Baker	Commissioner
J.B.Dousman	Physician

Headquarters Milwaukee.

Second District.

S.J.M.Putman	Provost Marshal
L.B.Caswell	Commissioner
C.R.Feard	Physician

Headquarters Janesville .

3rd District.

J.G.Clark	Provost Marshal
E.F.Fryant	Commissioner
John Vivian	Physician

Headquarters Prairie Du Chien.

4th District.

E.L.Phillips	Provost Marshal
Chas. Burchard	Commissioner

L.F.Cary Physician

Headquarters Fon Du Lac.

5th District.

C.R.Merill Provost Marshal

Wm,A. Bugh Commissioner

H.O.Craine Physician

Headquarters Green Bay.

6th District.

B.F.Cooper Provost Marshal

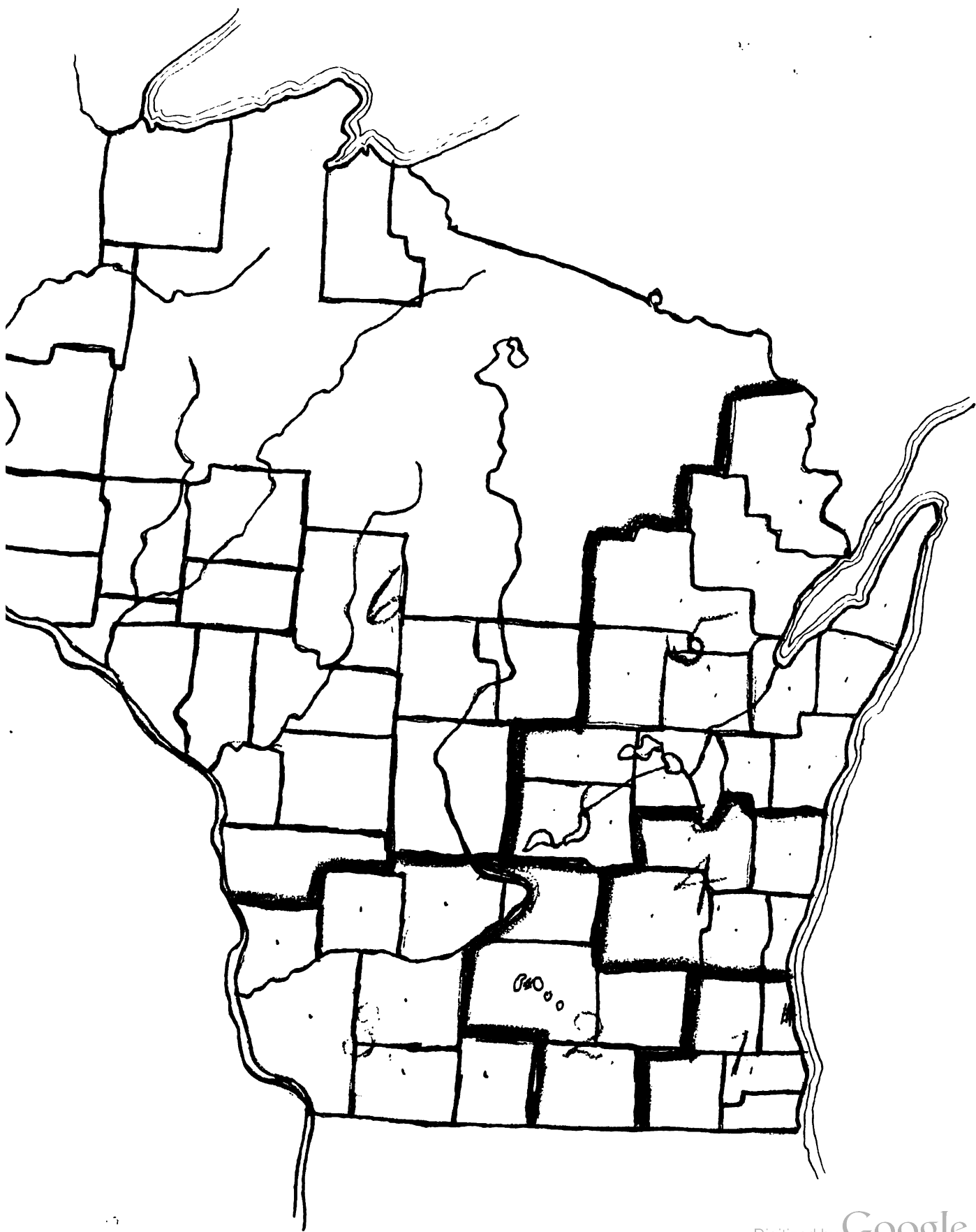
L.S.Fisher Commissioner

D.D.Cameron Physician

Headquarters La Crosse. (39)

The selection of these boards of enrollment was sometimes a difficult matter. In some localities there were men without recommendations who wanted the job, while in other instances the people who were capable declined to serve. Lieutenant Colonel Charles S.Lovell was appointed Assistant Provost Marshal for the state.

39. Quiner, Military History of Wis. p.157.



V.

The enrollment. The call of July for
300,000 men. The call of October 1863. Credits given.

The task of enrolling the state began in May, and opposition was met with in many of the eastern and southern counties, in fact some of them had pledged themselves not to allow an enrollment. Lovell wrote to Colonel Fry on May 28, as follows:

..." The Provost Marshal of the first district established his office at Milwaukee the 18th inst and immediately commenced the enrollment. Sometime during the afternoon of that day one of the enrolling officers was attacked by an Irishman with a spade and received a severe cut in the face. The Irishman was assisted by several women who pelted the officer with stones...," (40)

He asked that the commanding general of the department of the northwest send two companies of infantry. On the 26th Captain Tillapaugh, the Provost Marshal wrote to Lovell at Madison to the effect that it would be impossible to enroll any more in that city (Milwaukee) without a military force to protect the enrolling officer. He stated that the Dutch and Irish were determined to resist, and he asked for troops. Lovell did not reply so Tillapaugh appealed to Fry for force, but it was not sent. The enrollment however, was accomplished with the aid of the police. Both General Pope and Governor Salomon favored the enforcement of the law by civil authorities if it was at all possible, on the ground that it would produce less dis-

satisfaction and friction. But Pope wrote to Halleck asking that two old regiments be used during the draft to prevent riots in Milwaukee, Washington, Ozaukee, and Dodge Counties.⁽⁴¹⁾ Many of the citizens of Milwaukee also believed that the draft could be carried out only with force.⁽⁴²⁾

In some regions where there was not the chance of organization among the rioters, as in Milwaukee, there was even more determined to the enrolling officers. Seven companies of the 30th regiment went to aid in enrolling Dodge County. They established their headquarters at Hartford, and from here a company under Captain Burton went on Tuesday, June 23, into the town of Lebanon. Next morning six of the men were sent as an escort for the enrolling officer who started out to begin his work. About two miles out they were advised to turn back as the Germans were collecting at a schoolhouse to drive them back. However, they proceeded on their way and soon came on to a crowd of two or three hundred Germans mostly armed, who, when they saw the blue coats and glistening bayonets appear, ran and hid their weapons in the grass, with the exception of some twenty or thirty who were bold enough to face them. They gathered around the soldiers and plied them with all sorts of questions, to which the boys gave no reply, as they had been instructed to answer no questions. The enrolling officer went on with his work and finished the town in seven days.⁽⁴³⁾

41. Ibid. p. 520.

42. Ibid. p. 533.

43. Milwaukee Sentinel July 4, 1863.

Had it not been for the presence of the soldiers it is not probable that the town could have been enrolled, as it was pledged to resist all attempts at draft, and furthermore other towns had pledged themselves to help each other. The fact that they had been bluffed by seven soldiers humbled them and from then on they appeared more loyal. (44) But all the enrolling officers did not escape as luckily as did this one. T.R.Cole of Woodland, Dodge County, was shot. The man who did it was escorted home after giving bail, by a procession and a band. Ed. Gillson of Washington County was run out by a mob. John Douglas an enrolling officer in Dodge County was also shot. In many of these eastern counties the opposition to the enrollment made it impossible to secure a good one. The Republican papers said it was due to the character of the news published in the Democratic papers, while the Milwaukee Sentinel charged the misunderstanding and bad feeling then existing to the Ryan address delivered in that city. (45) The Copperhead newspapers charged crooked work on the part of the Administration while the Republican papers answered by denouncing the Copperheads as traitors.

The call for 300,000 men came early in July of 1863, and a draft was ordered for one-fifth of the men enrolled in the first class plus fifty per cent additional for exemptions. It differed from any previous or later draft in that a certain number were not drafted for. The draft started July 7, in the eastern states and then came the news of the New York riots. The Wisconsin

44. Milwaukee Sentinel July 10, 1863.

45. Milwaukee Sentinel October 29, 1863.

State Journal of July 16, said: " Bully for Old Abe. Draft will be enforced in New York." Then it went on to condemn the attitude of the treasonable Democrats and the Chicago Times, and then continued to say: ..." The President denies the demand of the demagogue Governor of New York. The draft will be enforced. The mob does not rule. If Governor Seymour through tenderness to his friends fails to restore order the strong arm of the National Government will interpose. The thanks of a grateful people are due the President.,..."

Reports bear out the facts that the republican districts had been the ones to furnish the most men. A report of July 15th says that the second district compared well with the others ,having furnished the largest number, and ranked second in excess of quotas, and had the smallest number of drafted men.⁽⁴⁶⁾ It went on to point out that the excess of volunteers was in proportion to the republicanism of the district, and the deficiency in proportion to the democracy. All Republican districts were in excess, while the two democratic ones had a deficiency. The exact figures were as follows:

District.	Excess	Deficiency.
1	--	256
2	890	
3	624	
4	---	721
5	177	
6	1150	

46. Wisconsin State Journal July 15, 1863.

The sixth district which comprised the whole north and west part of the state was composed of a more cosmopolitan population which had a stronger Union sentiment than the eastern ones which were mostly all German .

After the July call came the great question was the settlement of credits and quotas. All former credits had to be figured out on a three year basis. That is it took four of the nine month men to make one credit. A thorough review of the enrollments of the sheriffs was made so that the state might get all the credit it had coming. A review of these returns showed a difference of 342 between the records of the state and those of the War - Department. The state record was proved to be correct and was allowed. Proper distribution of credits to the right towns and wards was promised by the War Department, but no records had been kept in some localities and there was no way to tell what localities had been patriotic and loyal and what ones had not. It was suggested that the people of each district might make out a list of all volunteers claimed, giving the company and regiment of such men and then this was to be compared to the rolls in the office of the Adjutant General. ⁽⁴⁷⁾ From experience in other states this was proved to be impracticable, as it involved too much time and labor. So the only way left was to allow credits by Congressional Districts. Credit was to be given to sub-districts according to the number of first class men enrolled, with out regard to former excess or deficiency. The credits as allowed by the War Department were as follows:

Reckoned to October 12, 1863.

District	Volunteers claimed by sheriffs	Drafted 1862 mustered in.	Volunteers	total
1	6847	275	370	7492
2	7416	27	238	7681
3	6700	60	200	6960
4	5935	423	118	6476
5	6216	201	159	6576
6	5684	32	84	5800
				40,985
:net excess 4352. (48)				

All volunteers in new regiments up to November 1, were to be credited. The failure to credit towns that had an excess caused a great deal of dissatisfaction and hard feeling toward the Government. Some towns that were known to have an excess were credited by discharging a number of the drafted men equal to the excess over all calls. (49)

The quotas of the several districts were made, but before the draft took place the call of October 17th came for 300,000 men called principally to fill up old regiments, and now the two calls were blended. The draft had been completed in the eastern states during July and August, but Wisconsin could not possibly be ready before November. The October call was to be filled by January 5, 1864 or a draft was to take place to fill the deficiency. All men raised by virtue of the increased bounty offered for recruits for old regiments (402 dollars) were to be credited on the quota of 300,000 volunteers and not on the present draft. (50)

The quotas assigned under the two calls were as follows:

	District.					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
enrolled 1st class	15605	12952	10012	10138	12014	12069
quota on July draft	3121	2590	2002	2028	2403	2414
excess	353	1341	1064	_____	566	1410
deficiency				382		
<hr/>						
absolute quota	2768	1248	938	2410	1837	1004

Making a total of 14,558 reduced by credits to
10,206.

quota on Oct. 17 call	2204	1829	1414	1432	1697	1705
-----------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Total for both calls 20,487. (51)

This table of quotas was sent to Governor Salomon at Madison on October 31st 1863, by Provost Marshal Fry. Six days later, October 27th, the Governor issued a proclamation to the 49. Official Records, s.3, v.3, p. 593.

50 Ibid. p.947.

51 Ibid. p.909.

42

people of Wisconsin, intended primarily to arouse enthusiasm and stimulate volunteering. In part he said:

..." Whereas, in addition to the draft of twenty per cent of the first class of the enrolled National forces heretofore called for, the President of United States, by his proclamation of the 17th inst, has made a call for 300,000 volunteers; and

Whereas, duty and patriotism demand that the draft should be cheerfully submitted to and the new call promptly answered by the people of Wisconsin as they have always been ready to comply with all previous calls heretofore made upon them in support of our national integrity and for the maintenance and vindication of the Union, the Constitution and the laws"

Then he explained the nature of the October call, and the quotas for the draft then pending so that there might not be any misunderstanding on the part of the people in regard to what was expected of them. He closed by making a pathetic appeal to the people of his state. ..." As the people of Wisconsin have evinced their patriotism heretofore upon every occasion where the nation has made a call for men in the present great national struggle, I trust that they will not fail to fill their quota of volunteers under this call by the appointed day. The rebellion has received many a severe blow during the past two years. It has been crippled and narrowed down; all its hopes of aid from without have failed; the last able-bodied white man in its power has been driven into its ranks; it can make but one last desperate effort with its armies now in the field. Under these circumstances, shall our National Government--shall our

44

brave men in the field--call invain for re-enforcements by volunteering ?. I trust not. We can not and must not stop half-way, but must sustain our brave brothers in the field and struggle on until this rebellion is suppressed. If this new call for volunteers, intended to fill the ranks of the decimated old veteran regiments, is answered promptly, it will give more real strength to our army than any previous call has ever done". (53)

As we shall see later this proclamation coupled with other things did stimulate an enthusiasm for filling the ranks with volunteers that had not been equaled before.

The draft under the Julycall was set for November 9th, commencing in the first district at Milwaukee and was to proceed in each succeeding district in numerical order until completed. Up to October 27th Colonel Lovell had not received instructions regarding the bounties offered to recruits for old regiments, nor had he heard or been instructed that all volunteers mustered into service got credit on the quota down to the day of the draft. Governor Salomon wrote to Colonel Fry on October 27th asking him to give Provost Marshal Lovell explicit instructions so that he (Lovell) would know in what manner to proceed. On October 29th Lovell received the instructions from Colonel Fry. (54) In the instructions were letters to the boards of enrollment giving the quotas of their respective districts for the draft, and rules in regard to credits and the following instructions:

..." You will by yourself and by your inspectors, give personal supervision to the draft in the different districts under your charge. You will see that the boards make the draft immediately upon being ordered to do so, and that the drafted men are notified, with the least possible delay, to appear at district head-

quarters...." They were also to provide for the men when they reported at rendez vous. The board of enrollment was also to see to it that clothing, knapsacks, canteens, blankets, knives, forks, spoons, tin cups and tin plates were provided at headquarters for each district in advance of the draft. In making credits to sub-districts the letters contained the following rules; " Where a sub-district constitutes a single town, deduct from the quotas as assigned in the orders for draft, the number mustered in and fifty per cent additional. The remainder will be the number to be drawn, and two-thirds of it will be the quota required." If the sub-district consists of two or more towns the last names drafted were struck off until they equaled the number of credits the town claimed. Towns having their quotas full were to have no draft.

Some of the towns and wards of cities had by special efforts filled their quotas while others had made no attempts to do so. There sprang into being over certain eastern portions of the state what was known as draft insurance agencies. As early as July one was formed in Outagamie county and soon a considerable number of them existed in southeastern Wisconsin. The Town of Greenville, Outagamie county, has the distinction of forming the first draft insurance company ever formed in the United States.⁽⁵⁵⁾ The Germans in Appleton organized the Appleton Draft Association. The fact is the people in this section of Wisconsin began to form draft associations and took less

54. Official Records. S, 3. V. 3, p. 946-7

55. History of Outagamie County p. 328.

interest in the war. These Draft Insurance Companies operated in the following manner. Each member paid an initiation fee of twenty-five or fifty dollars as the case might be, and the company insured him against being drafted into the army. The company agreed to get him a substitute. In Appleton the fee was fifty dollars, and the "Crescent" says that large numbers joined.

In opposition to these draft insurance companies the strong Union men formed Union leagues to prevent local resistance to the war measures. The draft insurance companies then struck off from their membership rolls the names of members who belonged to the Union Leagues. Most of the members of the insurance companies were Democrats and foreigners. The average Wisconsin Democrat, while he might not have wished to oppose the laws of the country, lacked that love of country which comes from birth and ancestral traditions, and he naturally opposed the incoming Republican power which was pushing the war. The Democratic newspapers shifted in their opinion according to the extent to which their ire was aroused. Among the democratic papers to oppose hiding from the draft was the "Crescent", yet after Lincoln's call for troops on October 17 it said, "Is not this call for troops by volunteering a full confession of the utter failure of the conscription act, the pet scheme of Abolitionists? Is it not a vindication of the position assumed by Governor Seymour in his letter to the President, so jeered at by the Abolitionists?" (56) This editorial without doubt voiced the sentiment of a large share of the Democrats at this time. The newspapers published reports

47

of the suspension of the draft in other states, especially New Jersey, and asked that Governor Salomon try to get it suspended in Wisconsin. Under such pressure Governor Salomon wrote to Stanton asking if it were true that New Jersey had been granted thirty days to fill its quota by volunteering, and if so he asked the same privilege for Wisconsin. The answer came back that no such privilege had been granted, and that the conditions in New Jersey were the same as in Wisconsin. (57)

56. History of Outagamie County. p. 330.

57. Official Records. s.3, v.3, p. 592.

VI.

The execution of the draft. Results .

As the 9th of November approached attention turned to Milwaukee where the draft was to start at 9 A.M. on that date in the Circuit Court room. Rumors were floating about of resistance to the draft. Milwaukee with a population of about 65,000 people was a conglomeration of nationalities with the Irish and German in the lead. Two-thirds of the population were foreigners. Besides she had established a reputation for riots having had seven of them in the last twelve years. Provost Marshal Tillapaugh of this district had written to Colonel Lovell at Madison as early as July 14, asking for troops. His letter says;

" This Congressional District comprises five counties, four of which are loyal beyond a doubt, viz, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, and Waukesha; and this city is disloyal beyond a doubt, and in our judgment one of the most disloyal cities to be found, and our object in this communication is to most respectfully, but earnestly, ask either, that so far as the city of Milwaukee is concerned, we be authorized to temporarily change our headquarters for such length of time as shall be necessary to make the draft for this city and the towns of Mukwonago and Menomonic in Waukesha County. This we think would avoid any disturbance here. If this permission can not be given, then we ask that prior to commencing the draft a sufficient military force be provided to protect the office, the enrollment lists, the officers and employe's connected with this office. The population of this

city is about 65,000. Of this number two-thirds are foreigners and a very large proportion of which is and always has been opposed to the war and the Government; and by political leaders their feelings and passions have been aroused to such a pitch that we have not one particle of doubt that as soon as the draft is commenced, and perhaps before, there will be a mob that can only be put down by a strong military force; and unless that force is provided in advance the enrollment and records will be destroyed. We are in possession of evidence that satisfies us, beyond the possibility of doubt, that there are organizations now in the city with plans matured, and at a given signal the mob will break forth in all its fury. We could and, if the department desires it, will give facts and reasons for all we state" (58)

These letters were sent to the War Department by Colonel Lovell. The War Department declined to let any of the old regiments be sent back to Wisconsin as they were sorely needed in the army. (59) But two companies of the 30th regiment at Superior and two companies of the same regiment from the Missouri River were sent for. Two companies were held in readiness at St Paul. Besides there were eighty men in the state who could be used for enforcing the draft. This eighty that had volunteered for artillery were armed with muskets and held in readiness. Armed men were sent from Madison and Racine, but all was quiet when the draft occurred.

58. Official Records. s.3, v.3, p. 534.

59. Ibid. p. 579.

The Milwaukee Sentinel of November 11 , (the next day) says concerning the draft:

" During the whole of the proceeding the utmost good nature and good order prevailed. There was a ready acquiescence on the part of the people and as the successive drawings were completed it was the signal for a cheer on the part of those who had escaped the fortunes of the wheel, and they would give place in the room for the citizens of the ward about to pass through the wheel ".

The names of all the enrolled men of the first class in a given ward or town were put in the wheel and the wheel was whirled around in order to mix them up, and then a blindfolded man drew out as many names as was required to fill the quota. After the draft Milwaukee was strewn with handbills calling the drafted men together. (60) What they were going to do is not known but whatever it was, they decided upon second thought not to proceed with it.

The draft had been completed in the first district by the 12th of November, and then they proceeded in the second district in the same manner. In Dover township, Racine County, a man by the name of Patrick Brady objected to the man who was drawing out the tickets from the wheel. To satisfy Brady he was allowed to do it himself. The quota of the town was twenty-four and the twenty-second name drawn was his own. This is just one case of a great many in which the Democrats charged unfair treatment. Provost Marshal Putnam of Janesville wrote on the 11th of November to Madison concerning the draft which was to begin in the 60. Milwaukee Sentinel, November 11, 1863.

second district the next day;

" I desire the people of your county to select a committee of at least five of your best citizens to be present during the drawing in Dane County. The Board of Supervisors is now in session and would be the proper body to send such a committee. As there are a class of men among us however, who seek every pretext for exciting the ignorant and prejudiced by representing that the draft is intended to take Democrats and spare the Republicans We think it would be well to appoint such a committee and have it consist mainly of Democrats ". (61)

In Dane County a blind man was allowed to do the drawing so that the Copperheads if drawn could not say that they were selected from the others. When a Copperhead was drafted he howled that Copperheads would not be missed but that all of them would probably be taken. The State Journal of November 14, says;

" Four persons were drafted from this office yesterday. Another of our workmen who was employed at Milwaukee was drafted there, making five in all. From the Patriot but one man has been drawn, Suppose the case reversed. What a howl would ascend. The affair would be quoted by the copperhead press as proof positive of the purpose of the Administration to make a distinction between the Republicans and Copperheads, protecting the former from draft as far as possible". (62) Another illustration of this hard feeling on the part of the Copperheads is shown in a statement of the

61. Wisconsin State Journal Nov. 11, 1863.

62. Wis. State Jour. Nov. 16, 1863.

Patriot which said;

" Some few 'loyal men' have drawn lucky prizes but the great bulk are from the copperhead persuasion".

Yet a committee of four Democrats and one Republican watched the drawing to which this referred and they testified as to its fairness. (63) In most all of the regions committees of this kind watched the drawing to see that it was conducted fairly.

As fast as the draft of the State was completed the leading newspapers published the names of the drafted men , and commented on the results. It is interesting to note the result of the draft in the eastern part of the state as compared with the western part. In Waukesha County about twenty per-cent of the drafted men presented themselves for duty. Men again heard of the sudden illness of friends in Canada and they became very melancholy. Twenty men left Fon Du Lac in one single night. Thirteen left Waupun on a certain Sunday evening, and about the same number from Ripon. (64) About one-half of the substitutes departed for Canada as soon as they got the 300 dollars. In Waushara County a supplementary draft had to be executed later to make up for those who 'skidadled' or were exempt. One draft association in Milwaukee had four of its members drafted. The company paid their commutation money, and there was great rejoicing. The four members gave a big supper to the 'entire company. Not all the men who fled went to Canada however, for some of them had friends in other states who they wanted to see

63. Wis. St, Jour. Nov. 16, 1863.

64. Butterfield C.W. History of Waukesha County.

(Chicago 1880) Western Historical Co. p. 552.

very suddenly. The writer is personally acquainted with a man drafted from Jefferson County who was taken suddenly with a desire to see his childhood home in New York State about the time the draft commenced. He was drafted after arriving in New York and came back to Wisconsin and hired a substitute.

Dr. Crane, the examining surgeon of the fifth district, gives us some valuable information on the draft in his report to the War Department. (65) His district comprised the north-eastern and central part of the state. He examined about 14,165 men nearly all enrolled or drafted men and most of them claimed severe indisposition of some kind. He says;

..." A large preponderance of this population is foreign, representing every State and Duchy of Europe. They subsist by the cultivation of small farms and the manufacture of lumber and shingles from their pine forests. Necessity compells them to be industrious but they are usually very poor and ignorant, mostly German Catholic and as such generally hostile to the Conscript Act. These men are often ignorant of the most common civilities of life: They are unscrupulous as to the means for obtaining the desired end, regarding bribery and corruption as legitimate rather than as crimes. A virtuous public sentiment can not reach them since they are surrounded by those who are opposed to the wholesome administration of the law, and alike interested in preventing its execution. Demagogues, interested in preserving their party ascendancy have educated this people to believe that the

65. Statistics, Medical and Anthropological of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau. (Washington 1895)

v. 1, p. 470.

57

war was not only useless and cruel, but that its efforts would be finally to subvert their civil and political privileges. Hence the difficulty of procuring an enrollment of some of the counties and the inability to compel the drafted men to report. Usually the strong and able bodied ran away, while the cripples and aliens alone reported."...

In the western district things were more gratifying, there were fewer draft associations in existence. The draft commenced in the sixth district on November 16. La Crosse drafted but seventy. After the draft the conscripts held a parade. The La Crosse Republican said of it;

..." Their precision of movement, their patriotic fervor, their evident determination to do or die, and their genuine soldierly bearing fairly won the admiration of citizens of all parties". Enthusiasm was unbounded. (66) The results of the draft in this district were good and in fact better than any that had yet appeared in any district in the United States. The quota was 2414 upon which they received credit for 1410 leaving 1004. To this was added a deficiency of 135 from the fourth district making it 1139 to which fifty per-cent was added making 1708. From October 12, to November 16, the time of draft 47 men enlisted. Deducting this left them 1661 to be drafted.

Whole number drafted	1661
" " fit for service	739
Paid commutation	607
Held and sent forward	133
Substitutes furnished	9

Discharged for alienage

or by section 2, of the law	418	
Discharged for disability	317	
Failed to report	187	(67)

Over forty per-cent of the number drafted were realized and over sixty-five per-cent of the number required from the district. The district reached from La Crosse to Superior a distance of nearly 240 miles. Some of it consisted of large lumbering districts. The "lumber jacks" volunteered quite readily and the La-Crosse papers comment favorably on their appearance as they arrived in town. There were few cities of any size in the sixth district. Eau Claire was as yet a small city, and Superior stood at the extreme north end, cut off from the rest of the region because of the undeveloped region through the central portion. Such conditions made it easier for drafted men to flee and evade the officers, but the quotas of the sub-districts were small and the men that were drafted were more loyal than in the eastern district. Then too, the democratic newspapers did not exert such an influence over the people in this region. In the south-eastern section of the state the only district that compared with it was the second, made up of Dane, Rock, Jefferson and Columbia Counties, where the Republicans were slightly stronger than the Democrats. The results in this district were;

Quota	1618
Credits	230
Number drawn	1388
Exempted	1016

Number held to service	133	
Substitutes	4	
Cases under consideration	27	
Failed to report	208	(68)

The result of the draft in all district was as follows;

Dist- district	No. en- rolled	No. drafted	Mustered in per son	Substi- tutes	Disch- arged	Failed to report	Paid Comm. money
1.	25084	4172	34	140	1787	1047	1164
2.	21107	1758	43	15	784	183	769
3.	17746	1398	147	4	543	152	552
4.	18704	3124	83	61	1316	537	1127
5.	20709	2840	195	23	1196	564	862
6.	17852	1643	126	9	695	206	607
<hr/>							
	121202	14935	628	252	6285	2689	5081

Enrolled in first class 74,566
or eighteen per-cent of the population.
42 per-cent were discharged. (69)

A study of this table reveals that the best results obtained were in the 3rd and 6th district, in the western part of the state. Yet these two had the smallest population. They had the smallest number drafted; stand second and third in number of persons who served; they had the smallest number of substitutes furnished; they had the least number of exemptions of all the districts,

69. Adjutant Gen. Report 1864, p.512.

and they had a smaller number of men who failed to report at headquarters, with the exception of the second which stood a little better than the sixth. Fewer people paid commutation money in these districts. Nearly as many failed to report in the first district as were drafted in the sixth. The third district furnished the largest number of men, that is a larger per-cent of those drafted served personally or furnished substitutes(10%).

On the whole the draft produced but 880 men, and as a means of raising men for the army it was a failure, but its best result was that it stimulated volunteering. A man had much rather volunteer and go than to go as a conscript. About 17% failed to report, while the number that paid the commutation money was so large in comparison with the number of men realized that it looked more like a war tax levied than a means of filling the army with men. Some of the men were sent to fill up old regiments and some were held on duty at Camp Randall.

VII

How the people took the draft. The examination of the conscript. Efforts to fill quotas and avoid a draft. No draft under the next three calls.

The draft was not completed until January 1864. Meanwhile another draft was pending. The news papers kept up a continuous warfare throughout the period. The Republicans pointed out the disloyalty of the Democrats and Copperheads as revealed in the returns of the draft, while the Democrats returned the fire by picking out little incidents and magnifying them to suit their grievances. The Democrats referred to the results in Rock County in the following manner;

" Rock County gave 2800 majority Shanghai at the recent state election. Of all the men drafted in that populous county only twenty five go to the war!!! Patriots!!! Unionists !!! shriek again against the Democrats ". (70)

The editor of the State Journal at Madison was subjected to much abuse thru an incident over which he had no control. After the draft was completed for Dane County twenty five names of those drafted were struck off because of credits allowed. Among these was the name of the editor. The Democrats then heaped sarcasm upon him and referred to him as a traitor who refused to go to his country's aid after all he had said and done in defence of the war.

Not all that was written in regard to the draft was of this bitter nature. Some people saw the humorous side of it in spite of it. The Crecent Jan. 16, 1864.

of the sorrow and suffering it entailed. The following account taken from a small town newspaper and written by a German citizen ran as follows ;

" Things is in a muddle. Gavinments got demoralized and is gone into the lottery business like a gay old gambolier. The Gavinment wheels' worse than roulette, for in that you see the ball spin around and you stand a chance of doublin your pile; but in Captain Stanton's wheel you stan two chances of losin to none at all of winnin. In fact for a poor specyulashun it beets anything sens the days of Joshua and I'm down into it. I've no particular objection to a square game, where you get a sint of your money but to buck agin the Gavinment whether you want to or not with nary chance at all except of losin 3 hundred sint aint exactly what Ive been brought up to consider the hite- of morality. To my mind Gavinment might be in better business, ~~besides~~ its immoral pinoes, this Gavinment gamboliering its unhealthy business, it sort of pisons the atmosphere and brings on all sorts of diseases. The folks around here yoused to be tollerable alobrieus. Now they haint. Three tears ago you couldnt find a man in the town that was'nt Maynus Appolo --- now they aint one of that sort left, unless he is some poor cus which aint got no friends and no three hundred or nothin- Sum have tubercules(which is things like potatoes) growing in the lungs, sum have very course vains, and the rest aint very well generally, and all in consekwins of Gavinments goin into the lottery business. You see taint good for body or sole and it should'nt ought to be continued. What makes me specially down

on the institushun is that I'm won of its victims. The wheel's gone and done it, and I which hav'nt even plaid 'seven up' for the drinks in more than a year am beet out of the 3 hundred by a game in which they would'nt even let me hold a hand". (71)

The following editorial appeared in the Waukesha County - Democrat about a week after the draft had taken place in Milwaukee on November 9, 1863. It was written by a conscript and depicts the predicament of the conscript in a rather satirical way;

" Ye Conscript "

" It seems that the lottery arrangement in Milwaukee last week decided that we were a fit subject to be a conscript---- It is the first prize we have drawn in a 'gift interprise' al - though having frequently invested a dollar or two. It is wonder - ful what a numerous lot of rejoicing friends any sudden accession to fortune will bring out. At every turn we are congratulated with an apparent warmth of affection sufficient to turn " a wise head" . Already have several substitutes offered to fill our place in business and social relations, while we should win glory at the cannons mouth. As soon as it shall come to the ears of Father Abraham that we are conscripted, he will, no doubt send us a Brigadier General's commission in remembrance of old acquaintance, for when he was splitting rails in Illinois we were drawing them with an ox team, and many's the time we run to the grocery and brought him a plug of tobacco and some liquid refreshments. He told us then that he would recollect, us, and, we guess he did!" (72)

61

Among the substitutes at Camp Randall was one whose case was rather curious. He was a farmer in good circumstances and had held prominent offices in his town in a neighboring county. He had expressed himself very strongly against the commutation clause and declared that if either of his boys should be drafted they must go to the war. The draft came and took one of the boys. The old man's views were brought to a severe test and found shakey. He did not want his boy to go and because of his views on the commutation clause he decided to go himself. He procured some hair dye to restore the youthful appearance of his grey locks and presented himself before the examining surgeon, was accepted and mustered into the service and turned into the "Bull Pen". The old gentleman thought it pretty tough to be treated in this manner and began to dislike the service. Finally he succeeded in satisfying the Post Commandant that he could be trusted outside the pen, but the liberty of the entire camp did not satisfy him and he began to pine for home, and the thought of being away from home three years began to look terrible to him. After some mental struggles he decided to pay the three hundred dollars but found out that substitutes could not commute after entering the service. So he then tried to get in detailed duty, but he was told that substitutes were not assigned to such service, but were to go into active service in the field. He then tried to get off on the score of age but this was of no avail, he was in for it for three whole years. (73)

The examination of the conscript as he presented himself at headquarters was a difficult task for the examining surgeon

73. State Journal Dec. 8, 1863.

because of the frauds practiced, some of which were funny in -
deed and provoked considerable laughter. He studied how to make
himself appear sickly and lifeless. The right eyes of the men
were going blind with astonishing rapidity. Dr. Crane reports
that men were examined who had belladonna on their person. This
is a drug used to produce temporary blindness. It was found that
sores were manufactured in anticipation of the draft. The doctors
and lawyers could exact large prices from the foreign element by
promising to exempt them from draft. The local doctors would
produce sores or ulcers for fifty or seventy five dollars. Men
who would have been exempted anyway on presenting themselves,
paid large sums of money to lawyers who agreed to get them exempt.
Every expedient was tried to cause an inordinate action of the
heart so that the surgeon would pronounce it 'weak heart'. Some
of the conscripts feigned deafness, but this was hard to do and
very often they forgot themselves before they got out of the
office of the surgeon. The Bohemians claimed to have hernia.
This disease had baffled the surgeons of Europe so they tried it
here. It was produced by an injection of air into the tissue with
a blowpipe at a certain place on the body, and then the opening
was closed and inflammation resulted. (74) Often the hair was dyed
to hide their real age. The board of enrollment at La Crosse
excluded agents, attorneys, shysters, cutthroats, swindlers, and
middle men from their offices. Persons entitled to exemption

74. Statistics, Medical and Arthrop. of Prov. Marshal Gen.

Bureau. v.1, pp. 470-74.

were thus relieved of the job of hiring agents.

The Governor's office was flooded with applications for exemptions from the draft because of alienage.⁽⁷⁵⁾ Each case was investigated before being passed upon, and a very large per-cent of the applicants were refused exemption after the investigation on the grounds that they had exercised the franchise right. Some of the letters asked for exemption for other reasons. One letter was a curious one. The writer, judging from the writing and the use of English, was a German not schooled in America. He stated that he stutered very badly and he asked the Governor to exempt him from draft, because he thought that this would not enable him to make a good soldier.

Before the July draft had been executed another one was pending on January 5, 1864. With the Governor's patriotic appeal to the people on October 27 still ringing in their ears, the people set to work to raise the required number if possible by volunteering. General order number twenty one issued November 23rd, 1863 from the office of the Adjutant General said ;

52 2. A3 " Under the call of the President of the United States dated October 27th 1863 for 300,000 volunteers to serve for three years or during the war, the quota of Wisconsin is 10,281 there being 74,976 persons enrolled in the first class according to official reports.

This number may be raised by voluntary enlistments in any of the old regiments or batteries, or in the 35 th regiment infantry or 13th light artillery, now organizing in the state. If the quota given above is not filled by voluntary enlistments, a draft is 75. Manuscript material from the Governor's office.

ordered by the general government on the 5th of January, 1864, to supply the deficiency then existing".⁽⁷⁶⁾ The quotas were assigned according to the number enrolled in the first class. Authority to recruit was given by the District Provost Marshals or the Assistant Provost Marshal General. Veteran volunteers got 402 dollars, and new ones 302. Besides this the District Provost Marshal offered a premium to any person other than a commissioned officer who would bring in a veteran, twenty dollars and for recruits not veterans fifteen dollars. The quota by counties was ;

First District.	Milwaukee	1150
	Racine	269
	Kenosha	159
	Walworth	352
	Waukesha	274

Second District.

	Rock	535
	Dane	631
	Jefferson	316
	Columbia	347

Third District.

	Richland	113
	Iowa	191
	La Fayette	226
	Green	223
	Grant	342

76. Adjutant General's Report 1863, p. 170.

Crawford	122
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Sauk	197
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Fourth District.

Fond du Lac	437
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Dodge	476
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Washington	173
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Ozaukee	128
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Sheboygan	218
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Fifth District.

Brown	159
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Calumet	83
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Door	34
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Green Lake	152
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Kewaunee	77
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Manitowoc	232
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Marquette	85
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Oconto	135
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Outagamie	458
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Shawanaw	18
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Waupaca	137
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Waushara	104
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Winnebago	323
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Sixth District.

LaCrosse	225
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Monroe	163
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Chippewa	99
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Jackson	76
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Adams	61	Trempealeau	56
Portage	102	Clark	15
Eau Claire	79	Marathon	62
Pierce	76	Juneau	130
Vernon	159	St Croix	103
Pepin	45	Dunn	89
Burnett	2	Buffalo	81
Douglas	8	Polk	24
LaPoint	2	Wood	47
		Ashland	1 (77)

In December 1863, the principle of giving local districts credit for volunteers as suggested by Governor Seymour was adopted and urged upon all the states. Towns and wards were to receive not only credit for men furnished but were to be exempt from draft if they had their quota full. This assurance sent to Colonal Lovell on December 3, 1863, encouraged volunteering considerably. Besides the legislature had passed in February 1863, a law authorizing towns to raise a bounty by taxation and the several towns began to take advantage of this means of warding off the draft. Newspapers began to appeal to the people for unity of action. La Crosse raised subscriptions to fill her quota by having all enrolled men contribute. Committees were appointed in the different wards and towns of the state to solicit funds while another was appointed to secure the volunteers. Notices of meetings appeared in nearly every paper

for a time. The following one is typical ;

" We are requested by a number of citizens of the fourth ward to give notice that a meeting will be held at the court house at 7 1-2 o'clock tomorrow evening to consider the subject of raising volunteers to fill the quota of that ward under the President's last call for volunteers. A full meeting is desired." (78)
This call was for the fourth ward in the city of Madison.

By December 18, 1863, Madison was paying a special bounty of two hundred dollars and had filled her quota of 125 in less than eight days. Eau Claire offered one hundred dollars, Barboo two hundred, Beloit two hundred, and on that date Beloit had filled her quota of 53 men and had 20 more ready to enlist. (79)
On January 13 1864, Port Washington was paying three hundred dollars bounty. Milwaukee was one of the last cities to take advantage of this means of filling their quota. Not until - January 1864, did they act, and then the citizens petitioned the board of supervisors to take action under the legislative act passed in February 1863. But the system did not have the good results in Milwaukee County that it had in some other places.

Some of the Democrats did'nt like the strong appeal that was going up all over the state, and they began to find themselves in an embarrassing situation less public opinion forced them into volunteering. One of the leading democratic papers
78. Taken from the State Journal Nov.27, 1863.

79. State Journal December 15, and 18, 1863.

the Waukesha County Democrat answered their appeal in a rather clever way by throwing the responsibility of volunteering onto those who had voted for Lincoln's war measures. It said;

"We wish to encourage enlistments. The President has called for 300,000 volunteers, very properly taking it for granted that, if five or six hundred thousand men all his war policies, and voted for a vigorous prosecution of the war, in only three states, he ought to have no difficulty in securing 300,000 soldiers from the entire north. Now certain men, Brough men, Stone men, where are you? You have said to the Administration 'go on with the war just as you have been prosecuting it the last year', How is this Administration to follow your dictation unless you come to its support ? To vote for war is not enough...." (80)

Letters were coming into the Governor's office asking for appointments as recruiting agents. Some localities had none and the men who wished to volunteer had to go to the District - Provost Marshal's office. In the western region some localities were already ahead of quotas, and they found no difficulty in freeing themselves from the draft. Some localities had been required to draft but a very few on the last draft, and some not at all. John T. Tinker writes from Eau Claire as early as - October 17, 1863, to Governor Salomon as follows ;

" Will you please inform the loyal people of this county thru me if we are to be credited with the men furnished by the county over all, including the present call. Our credit at Madison over all former calls I think was 174. Present call was 130, leaving us 44 above the present call". (81)

80. Waukesha Co. Democrat. Nov. 3, 1863.

While these figures as he confesses may not be absolutely true yet it shows how responsive was the western part of the state.

On the first Monday in January ,1864, James T. Lewis was inaugurated as Governor of Wisconsin. The Legislature met at Madison on January 13, and in his message to the Legislature Governor Lewis speaks very little of the odious draft. His message had a rather soothing effect on the hearer. It was conciliating to all factions. In regard to the attempt of foreigners who had voted, to avoid military service he said;

..." Complaints are made in different parts of the State of fraudulent voting; that men who have long exercised the right of the elector and claimed the protection of the Government, now in the day of the Nation's peril, being unwilling to bear its burdens, claim to be subjects of a foreign power, and to avoid the draft bring forward proof that they were never entitled to vote, thus publishing their own wrong; that some have been in the habit of voting under assumed names; that others have voted more than once at the same election. These evils if they exist, should be corrected. The purity and permanency of our institutions depend much on the proper exercise of the elective franchise. The election laws should be thoroughly examined and so amended as to properly guard the exercise of this sacred right..." (82)

The Legislature did ,during its session pass a law providing for the registration of voters. Governor Lewis started upon

81. Manuscript Material from the Governor's Office.

82. Thwaites, Messages and Proc. p. 206.

his term of office with the same patriotic desire to see Wisconsin do her share in helping to preserve the Union as Governor Salomon had maintained throughout his term. He ends his message thus;

..." If our fathers were patriotic in establishing this Government, we certainly can not be far wrong in maintaining it. Believing then as we sincerely do, that the Government is in the right, that it is fighting in a holy and just cause, that duty demands of us action and sacrifice in its behalf, that efforts to patch up a temporary peace or obtain it by concessions to traitors, are not only dishonorable, but tend to protract the war and make it more expensive and dangerous-- we hope to see Wisconsin unite all her energies, without distinction of party or sect, in prosecuting the war with the utmost vigor. Let us sustain the Government and prosecute the war with a will and determination that shall carry the conviction to the minds of traitors, that obedience to the legally constituted authorities is the only course left to them; That our Government must be respected. The Union must stand, and we shall soon see the principles of liberty and equality re-established in every part of our National Domain, firm as the rock of ages, there to stand a blessing to the world, and enduring monument of the fidelity and patriotism of those noble men of the Revolution who founded, and the noble patriots who now defend it "....⁽⁸³⁾

Meanwhile the system of extra bounties by towns gave such a great impetus to recruiting that no draft was necessary for January. On February 1st, President Lincoln called for 500,000
83. Thwaites, Messages and Proc. p. 210.

men which was to be considered as including the call of October 17th, 1863. No quotas were assigned at the time but recruiting went on, and during February authority was given to form the 36th regiment. On the seventh of March another regiment, the 37th was authorized by the War Department, and on March 8th the 38th regiment was authorized. On March 14th the President made another call for 200,000 more volunteers. The number of men drawn in the November draft of 1863 were credited to the several sub-districts in these two last calls. While the 37th and 38th regiments were forming, the Secretary of War announced that Wisconsin had filled her quotas for the two last calls. These two regiments were not yet filled but on the announcement that Wisconsin's quota was full, recruiting ceased almost entirely. Two companies of drafted men were assigned to the 37th regiment and the two regiments were ordered to the front, one to West Virginia in May, and the other to the trenches at Petersburg during September 1864. (84)

The fact that Wisconsin had filled her quotas under the two calls did not mean that all sub-districts had furnished their share. The towns or cities that were enabled to offer the largest bounty got the credit while the poorer ones lost their able bodied men without getting credit or having their rolls reduced. A draft was talked of during April, for the sub-districts that were deficient but no action was taken. On April 21st, the State began to organize three regiments of one-hundred day men and all interest was absorbed by this.

VIII.

The call of July 18, 1864. The quotas. and the correction of the enrollment lists. Efforts to avoid the draft. Results of the draft.

On July 18, 1864, came Lincoln's call for 500,000 volunteers to serve for one two or three years. The following order was sent out from the Adjutant General's office dated July 30.

" Under the call of the President of the United States dated July 18, 1864, for 500,000 volunteers the quota assigned to Wisconsin is 19,032. This number may be raised by voluntary enlistments in any of the old regiments or batteries, or in the 42nd regiment of volunteer infantry hereby authorized. If the quota above given is not filled by voluntary enlistments a draft is ordered by the general government on the 5th day of September proximo, to supply the deficiency then existing."..

The quotas of town and wards were to be assigned by the respective District Provost Marshals. Rendez Vous was to be at Camp Randall in the City of Madison. The order ended by the following appeal to the people of the State.

"...In again calling upon the State to contribute from her sons to fill the ranks of our army, the Governor remembers with pride the response which has ever been made to the call of the General Government and the evidence therein given that Wisconsin still maintains her place among the foremost in loyalty and devotion to the Union."..

He again appeals with confidence to the unwearied patriotism

of the people for a prompt response by voluntary enlistments to this call, with the hope that the new accessions thereby secured to our National Forces might result in the speedy overthrow of the Rebellion, and the supremacy of the Government, and the establishment of peace and prosperity throughout the land. (85)

This quota seemed too large as Wisconsin had filled the two former calls on the same ratio, and if a considerable number of soldiers had left the State it was evident that the quota was excessive. Adjutant General Gaylord began an investigation and found that the rolls had been returned to Washington without having been corrected. The names of the soldiers already in the service had not been stricken off, and the names of the drafted men and those that had failed to report had not been stricken off either. So the rolls were returned to the War Department with the objections and Adjutant General Gaylord was authorized to proceed to Washington in the interests of the State. But on August 23rd he received instructions to proceed at once to correct thoroughly the enrollment by striking off all men drafted or who had furnished a substitute, all aliens, non-residents, men over-age and those disabled. The same to be done by September 1st and the quotas reduced accordingly.

On September 3rd 1864, order number 19 was issued from the Adjutant General's office to the people, to the effect that as a correction of the enrollment had been ordered by the War Department, there would be a re-assignment of quotas, and that it would necessarily put off the time of drafting later than September 5th, Volunteers were to be accepted and counted on the quotas up to the last practical moment of the draft. The order

85. Adjutant Gen. Report, 1864, p. 164.

ended by urging the people to action in trying to fill the quotas by volunteering. (86)

"... The corrected enrollments, and the credits obtained from the War Department, materially lessening the number to be raised from the State under the present call, together with the delay occasioned in making corrections, give ample opportunity for sub-districts to fill their quotas by voluntary enlistments. Immediate and energetic action will accomplish the work, to which all are urgently advised"....

The war was drawing of the laboring class and rural male population to such an extent that some regions were being depopulated, and as the Democrats saw each new call for men come their resistance and resentment became stronger. There began to be a true ring to the protests they made because the State had actually began to suffer from the effects of the war. A certain element had become sullen and silent, and took no interest in war whatsoever except in so far as it affected their escape from the draft. The short time allowed for revision and correction of the enrollment lists made any thing like a correct one impossible. The draft was executed before the correction was completed, and the corrections went on until the end of the war. Some towns had begun a revision of the lists in July. During July and August the newspapers published lists of the enrollment in their locality and appealed to the people to make corrections if necessary. In some cities committees were appointed to correct

86. Adjutant Gen. Report 1864, p. 164.

the lists.⁽⁸⁷⁾ The work was a slow process in the rural district and in fact was never completed. The work went on during the Fall and Winter of 1864, and the Spring of 1865, but was not completed when the news of the surrender of Lee at Appomattox came and the work dropped, to the great joy of the few who had escaped the fortunes of the draft wheel.

Through the corrections made during July and August and early September the quota of Wisconsin was reduced to 15,341 or 3,691 less than it was before the corrections were made.⁽⁸⁸⁾ Before this correction was made another error was discovered in the quota. In comparing the rolls of the State with those in the office of the Provost Marshal General at Washington, it was found that a credit of 4568 due the Congressional Districts in 1863 had not been entered on the books at Washington. These were accordingly allowed by Colonel Fry, thus reducing the quota of the State to less than 11,000 men. The credit was distributed over the State in the following way; Total credit allowed 4568 and of these 216 men were mustered in between the 12th of October and November 9th 1863. These were to be credited as they appeared on the books of the Assistant Provost Marshal of Wisconsin. The fourth district was deficient 382 men, and after deducting this from the credit of the State at large, the remaining excess of 4352 was directed to be credited to the several Congressional Districts as follows;

87. State Jour. August 6, 1864.

88. Quiner, Military His. p. 142.

1st. District,	270	
2nd	"	1256
3rd	"	987
5th	"	493
6th	"	1346 (89)

The Fourth District had a deficiency.

In making the credits on this excess the district was credited as a whole unit. In some places in the districts allowed credit the local sub-districts were behind their quotas. Milwaukee was far behind her quota, yet the district as a whole got a credit of 270 men. The quota of Milwaukee County for the draft of 1864 was 1349 with a deficiency of 196, making it 1545 in all. The loyal districts were contributing men for the less patriotic ones but they got credit for it later. The fourth district complained in strong terms because its quota was not reduced as much proportionally as the others through the corrections made in the quotas. The reasons given were that in their district more evidence was required to secure the striking off of names from the rolls. Some of the papers urged the people to resist the Conscription law if they did not want to disgrace their manhood.⁽⁹⁰⁾ These charges were false to a large extent, because the same instructions were sent out to all District Provost Marshals, and if any discrimination resulted, the fault must have been with the officers or the people. In fact both were to blame. The people practiced such frauds that it behooved the officers to take unusual precautions, and some few may have suffered as a

89. State Jour. August 22, 1864.

90. State Jour. Sept. 14, 1864.

result.

The Democrats made practically no efforts to avoid a draft. The Copperhead newspapers became so abusive that one could hardly believe them published outside of the Confederacy. Lincoln became a 'widow maker' and abuse was heaped upon him. The Crescent said in response to the call for men on July 18th;

" It is strange but true, that from all quarters of our State there is one universal feeling of dissatisfaction on account of this call. The dissatisfaction is expressed as decidedly by those who voted for, and until a few weeks ago vigorously upheld and defended the Administration, and its acts as by those who have disturbed and condemned it. Why this change? Why this universal gloom in farmhouse and city home ? Because the people have settled down upon the conclusion that the management of the Administration is criminal and venal to the last degree, and that hopes can no longer be entertained of its power, even if it had the will, to suppress the rebellion. The last invasion demonstrated that Lincoln and his colleagues are unworthy to manage the affairs of a great nation. Can the people be blamed, therefor for a call to arms under such mistrust ? Lincoln is plotting to overthrow all American liberties and establish his firm enthronement in power. But the fiat has gone forth. The work of gathering in more men for the harvest of death can go on and on with no prospect of putting down the rebellion until this infamous Administration is overthrown". (91) The Republican papers met these

91. The Crescent July 23, 1864.

copperhead charges with stinging sarcasm that would have put an Othello to shame. One of the Union papers answered these charges in this manner;

" A scurrilous newspaper of this State which devotes such portions of its reading columns as are not filled up with obscene jokes and smutty stories, to the diffusion of copperhead sentiments, felectates itself upon having added the epithet of 'widow maker' to the general stock of approbious names which the northern sympathizers with the cause of treason and rebellion apply to the President of the United States".⁽⁹²⁾

War in itself is a widow maker, butto blame a man who is trying to preserve the Union and acting on the defensive is quite another thing. The copper head newspapers were exerting an influence thru the democratic ranks nevertheless, and copperheads were flocking to join the ranks of their friends in Canada, rather than to remain and take chances with the draft wheel. A prominent citizen writes from Achippun, Dodge County on August 18 to Governor Lewis; "Is there no way of checking this mania for visiting? Nearly every person of all ages from 20 to 45 are about leaving our town for parts unknown. Before the 5th of September our town will be nearly destitute of the male population of a certain age. Is there no remedy?"⁽⁹³⁾ This skiddadling to escape the pending draft was carried on to a frightful extent and there seemed to be no way to prevent it. The state was near the Canadian border and was so much of a frontier

92. Wisconsin State Journal Aug. 17, 1864.

93. Official Records. S. 3. V. 4. p. 683.

state that escape was comparatively easy. Letters were coming in to the Governor's office from different parts of the state asking if something could not be done to stop it. E.B.Wolcott of Milwaukee writes to the Governor on August 26, to this effect: "Are there no means for arresting the stampede from our state, of the miserable, cowardly, copperhead scoundrels that are leaving by the thousands to avoid the draft? If they were never to return I for one would give them a 'Godspeed', knowing full well that they were leaving for their country's good; but so far from that, every man of them will be back and ready to vote on election day. If the Government does not look to this matter, or what would be much better, prevent their return. It must be derelict in a most important duty. Thousands of those shameless vagabonds are passing through our state from Minnesota, the number being swelled by a least as many more on their way through". (94)

Governor Lewis was asked to draw the attention of the General Government to this. Another letter from Milwaukee which came to the Governor read;

"Our state and the state of Minnesota are being depopulated by men liable to the draft. This morning about 100 came in on the La Crosse Railroad en route for Canada. On enquiry of the La Crosse Railroad Company, I find that every train has a large number of these men on it. The draft will therefore be a failure; but the worst of all is these men will be back in time to vote". (95)

94. Ibid p. 684.

95. Ibid p. 684.

80

This letter also asked the Governor that something be done.

It seems that copperheadism was getting into other parts of the state by this time, although not to such an extent as to be alarming at all. The drawing off of the Union men left them with greater chance to act. A letter came from Platteville to the Governor that, though it probably is an exaggeration of the conditions prevailing there, told of organizations to resist the draft. Platteville was in a loyal district. The letter reads; " I have information which I consider reliable that an organization exists in Galena, connected with Benton, New Diggings and Elk Grove, in this state, which organization is prepared with arms and ammunition and they are ready and declare they will resist the draft if there is any. They meet twice a week to drill at Benton or New Diggings...".

The number in the organization was stated as three to five hundred the Postmaster reported who wrote the letter. If such an organization existed it evidently decided not to act, as the draft ordered in September was executed without armed resistance.

The Republicans and loyal elements began a vigorous campaign for filling the quotas by volunteering. In August Appleton voted 10,000 dollars with which to pay volunteers. It was reported that the draft would fall heavily and mercilessly upon the farmers of Outagamie County. Some localities were already almost stripped of able-bodied men, and women and children were compelled to work in the fields. (96) Other towns throughout the state were offering large bounties and in some regions the quotas were

being filled rapidly. Janesville had in every ward, a committee for getting volunteers, and another for raising money. Usually all enrolled men were required to pay twenty-five or thirty dollars as a fund out of which volunteers were paid. The State Journal of September 21st reported that all but two towns in the 11th Senatorial District had filled their quotas. These two were Deerfield and Sun Prairie. This however was not true, but most of the sub-districts had actually free'd themselves from draft. The Janesville Gazette said that as near as could be estimated almost all the towns in Rock County had filled their quotas. Brodhead had filled her quota, and also Appleton and Ripon, while Waterloo and Beaver Dam later reported that their quota was filled. Even the City of West Bend that had resisted the draft in 1862, had filled her quota of twenty four men. The citizens went to work and voted a town bounty of 200 dollars for each man that volunteered. They afterward raised a private subscription among those liable to draft, of about as much more. Two or three other towns in Washington County had filled their quotas also, and the West Bend Post then said ;

" If there are any skidadlers from these towns, they can now return to their homes to be laughed at ". (97)

Volunteers came pouring into Madison, the rendez vous, in large numbers. The streets were crowded with men resembling the appearance they had once before when Lincoln had first called for troops and men had rushed forward with enthusiasm. Usually they came in wagons, some times a great many in a procession. On September 97. West Bend Post Oct. 29, 1864.

2nd two hundred men were mustered in at the City of Madison. (98)

'Patriotism was not dead yet' said the home newspaper. Towns too poor to pay the extra bounty suffered, as young men were not credited to their localities, and so the number of men liable to draft was never reduced while the actual number were. Considerable complaint came from this system of taxing the people to pay extra bounty, especially was this so in the army. Those who had been drafted or had sent sons to the field or had paid the money regarded it as an injustice to tax their property to save other men from the draft. These men in the army had been actuated by patriotism and they did not propose to pay to help keep other men out who were not patriotic. Their views were wholly logical, but under the circumstances it was hard to do otherwise. Men were skidadling with such unanimity that it was a serious question to raise the quotas from some copperhead regions of the Fox River Valley, even with the extra bounty.

The date for the draft had not been set for Wisconsin. Col. Eoyell wrote to Fry on September 1st as follows ;

"Recruiting has become very lively in this state during the last two weeks, and, while I would not recommend a postponement of the draft publicly, I would suggest that the order to commence the drafting be withheld for about 30 days, by which time I think the quotas will be nearly or quite filled except in some few localities. It is very evident that secret organizations are forming with the determination of resisting the draft. I inclose

98. State Journal Sept. 3, 1864.

some information on this subject sent me this morning by the Governor. Few men will be obtained by the draft, and it will be difficult to get men to serve notices in some localities unless they are protected by a military force. A company of good troops-- say two officers and sixty men--- will be necessary at the headquarters of each Provost Marshal to execute the draft effectively and get the drafted men in...". (99)

No such force was ever allowed nor was the resistance to the draft as bad as expectations. The dissenters did not have the chance to organize in this rural state as they would have had had they been segregated into cities. Fry sent the following order to Lovell on September 12th;

" Commence the draft on Monday the 19th instant beginning as far as possible in those deficient districts and sub-districts where there is the least volunteering going on..." (100)

The draft was ordered in the first, second and third districts to commence at 2 P.M. on Monday September 19th, and shortly after in the other three. In the Fourth District it did not begin until October 3rd, as a new correction of the rolls was made and 136 names were added while 1600 were stricken off as non-residents and exempts. The conditions in the fourth District had been deplorable and were yet.

The draft began in Milwaukee without disturbance and proceeded in the other districts in order. At Milwaukee the drawing took place in the Academy of Music. The Sentinel said of it; 99. Official Records s.3, v.4, p. 682.

100. State Journal Sept. 14, 1864.

" Amore earnest audience was never before gathered within the walls of the Academy. Parquette, dress circle and galleries were densely packed. Most of those present had the deepest personal interest in the result of the drawing either for themselves or those dearest to them".(101)

The utmost order and decorum prevailed. When the drawing of the 1st ward was over it was impossible to suppress the subdued cheer which the ones who had excaped the draft had to offer, but no disorder prevailed. The draft failed to secure the required number not only in Milwaukee, but in many other regions of the state, so a supplementary draft was executed in these places to fill the required quota. Sometimes the supplementary draft did not fill the quota. There was a defeciency in nearly every ward of Milwaukee City. In the 3rd ward 200 men had failed to report. And the whole 100% drawn in addition was exhausted without filling the quota. They claimed alienage, overage , and debility, but a large share of the untterrified Democrats volunteered in the army of Canadian sneaks. At Milwaukee one deserter was arrested while being mustered in as a substitute, and just in time to save the drafted man's 600 dollars. The arrested ran belonged to the 21st regiment.

A rather clever joke was played on the foreigners at Milwaukee. After the draft the Democrats urged them to take out citizen papers and vote on election day that was approaching, in order to help the Democrats into office. As fast as they became citizens their names were put in the draftwheel for the supplementary

101. Milwaukee Sentinel Sept.20, 1864.

85

draft. They could not get out by paying the commutation money as the clause in the Conscription act allowing this had been repealed in July 1864. It was then that the foreigner learned that American citizenship brings with it duties as well as privileges. (102) In the first ward a man by the name of John Dillon was drafted in September, claimed alienage and got exempt. He voted on election day, and it happened that his name was put in the wheel for the supplementary draft and he drew a lucky number. A supplementary draft in two towns in Washington County took nearly every able bodied man in the town. (103) A supplementary draft began in the Second District on October 22, There were only eight townships in the district that needed one, and these were; Blue Mound, Spring Dale, Deerfield, Berry, Milford, Watertown, Ft. Winneabago and Lewiston. The Crescent reported on October 8th, 1864 as follows; "The towns of Grand Chute Freedom Osborn, Black Creek and Centre are now depopulated of an arms bearing population. Another draft will not produce a dozen men from all these towns. The enlistments from the first three towns in 1864, if they had been credited thereto, would have filled their quotas for the present call and another call in addition. (104) Women and girls were forced to work in the stove factories in this region, to take the place of men. In the town of Eldorado, Fond Du Lac County one-half the men there were drafted in October 1864. A supplementary draft on January 27th 1865,

102 State Journal Nov. 2, 1864.

103. West Bend Post Dec. 18, 1864.

104. History of Outagamie County, p. 338.

was carried out to fill a quota of seventeen and one was secured.
(105) So many were absent in Canada from Sauk County that a supplementary draft was necessary there also.

The Democrats depicted their suffering which was beginning to be real, in pitiful terms. As the drafted men began to pour into Appleton, the Crescent pictured the following deplorable condition of the people around them. It said:

" There has been weeping at many a fire side as the husband, brother or son have torn themselves away to engage in the war which enriches the few and impoverishes the many".... ..then there is mourning in still another home circle from which the conscript who in most cases is the only prop and support of the helpless has just gone forth a wanderer on the face of the earth, continually in dread of meeting a Provost Marshal, Government detective or reward hunter. The draft has fallen heavily and mercilessly upon the farmers of this County. Whole townships are depleted of their ablebodied men and if the land is tilled it must be done by the women and children, the disabled and exempt. That there will be much suffering and that want and nakedness will visit many a farmhouse and cabin this very winter is no longer a matter of doubt. What cares the vulgar bore who sits in the presidential chair, surrounded by his wicked parasites and ungodly counselors for human suffering? His track is marked with blood and wrong, his very breath is as a pestilence. 'Life Liberty and the pursuit of happiness are no longer vouchsafed to American citizens' "(106)

105. History of Fon Du Lac County, P, 553.

106. Crescent Oct. 8, 1864.

The conditions described in this editorial are not exaggerated in the least. Letters coming in to the Governor for help describe pitiful conditions. Some farms were growing up to weeds, and they made one think of Goldsmith's 'Deserted Village'. In the election of 1864 the Democrats lost their last hope and despair settled into gloom. They had used as their motto 'vote for McClellan and avoid another draft' but Lincoln carried the state and the nation. The vote in Wisconsin was very close however. The results of the draft was as follows;

Dis- trict	No. en- roll- ed	No. Draft- ed.	Must- ered in per- son	Subs.	Disch- arged	Failed to report.	Paid commutation
1.	17431	4953	366	474	1970	2141	2
2.	15601	1150	119	72	712*	247	-
3.	14578	1757	416	75	581	683	2
4.	14811	2238	357	110	816	955	-
5.	15074	3672	514	115	1097	1946	-
6.	16573	3764	722	99	1548	1395	-
Tot al	94068	17537	2494	945	6724	7367	4

* Three hundred sixty two of this number were discharged on account of their sub-districts being filled by enlistments. There was held in person or by substitute 3439.

Discharged after draft 6724.

Failed to report 7367.

The draft was in reality 3439/17534 efficient as regards number or 19%. The returns were incomplete and the state had a deficiency of 4480 on December 31, 1864.

(Found in Adjutant's Report 1864 p.516.) Drafted men were held and later sent to fill old regiments. They were refused furloughs and hence got no chance to vote in 1864.

CHAPTER IX.

Continued correction of the enrollment.

The call of December 1864. The quota . Credits. Trouble with the National Government in reducing the quota. The draft, and its results. Conclusions.

While the supplementary drafts were going on renewed efforts were being made to get the enrollment lists corrected. Governor Lewis issued a proclamation to the people on November 28th 1864, calling upon the people to aid in the work. He said in part; "Whereas as , under the recent call for tropps, considerable complaint was made of the excessive enrollment of the state; and whereas, by special authority obtained from the war department, the draft was temporarily postponed, in order that the enrollment lists might be properly revised and corrected; and whereas, the time allowed for this purpose was necessarily short and it was found impossible in the more distant parts of the state to accomplish the same prior to the day fixed for the draft, and whereas, authority is now given by the provost Marshall General for the further correction and revision of the enrollment lists, by striking therefrom the names of all persons improperly enrolled and by adding thereto the names of all persons liable to draft, which have been omitted as herein often specified; and whereas, this is a matter in which the people of the state are deeply interested, now therefore to the end that the troops hereinafter called for from this state may not be disproportionate to those called for from other states and that the quotas assigned to other states may be just and

equally distributed between the several towns and wards thereof, I, James T. Lewis, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do issue this my proclamation, requesting and recommending that all good citizens, and particularly the town, city, and village authorities shall make timely and persistent efforts to thoroughly revise and correct the enrollment lists. (108),...."

He called their attention to the enrollment act which called upon all citizens, especially Civil officers, Clergymen, and prominent citizens to appear and give suggestions. The duty of the board was not to stop with one revision but the work was to be a continuous duty because of the men arriving at the age of military service, and because of the removals from one district of the state to another. The following people were to be put on the lists; all persons arriving at the age of twenty before the draft; all aliens who shall declare their intention to become citizens; all persons discharged from the military service of the United States who have not been in the service two years; all persons not exempt under Section 2 of the Conscription Act.

It was pointed out that all names should be stricken off that were improperly enrolled because that reduced their quota. While it was the duty of everyone to get every man's name on the rolls that belonged there, because that reduced the chance of the individual of being drafted. If it did not appeal to their interest one way it would the other. In the first district at least, the board of enrollment sent into each county a competent agent to aid the local authorities in each subdistrict in correcting the lists.

On December 19th 1864, President Lincoln called for 300,000 one, two or three year men, to fill up the deficiencies on former calls. If the quotas were not full on February 15th, 1865, a draft was to take place to make up the deficiency. The people of Wisconsin earnestly hoped that the quota would not be assigned to the state until the corrected enrollment lists were made out. Commissioner Baker of the First District wrote to Governor Lewis stating that the names of the drafted men under the last call had not been entered on the monthly report of the state of the enrollment, under the impression that they could and should be made at one time at the close of the drafting for the district under former calls, which was still in progress in some sub-districts. Governor Lewis sent this letter to Colonel Fry on December 23rd 1864, and in addition he says that the conditions described therein apply to the whole state. He urged upon Fry the necessity of postponement of the assigning of quotas until January. On January 5th Governor Lewis received reply that the assignments had been made but that the quotas could be revised as completely and rapidly as possible. (109)

The quota assigned Wisconsin was 17,800, and it was regarded as extremely excessive. A circular had been issued from the War Department on January 2nd, to the effect that quotas assigned on December 19th were not to be reduced except by actual enlistments in the army, navy or marine corps since the 19 ultimo. Governor Lewis said in regard to this on January 10, 1865, in a letter to Stanton;

" This circular if carried into effect will operate very unjustly upon those towns that have by extraordinary efforts and the expenditure of large sums of money, succeeded in securing an excess over their quotas on former calls, and will tend greatly to injure the recruiting service.

The fact is pretty well established in this state at least, that the Government must depend mainly upon recruiting for its soldiers. Out of over 17,000 drafted in this state during the last year, I am informed that but 3,000 are in the service. This being the case, it seems to me that efforts should be directed as far as possible toward stimulating the recruiting service"....

One way to do this as he suggested was to give towns full credit, and compel the unpatriotic ones to do their duty. Then too, the recruiting service was bad. The authority of the Governor to appoint recruiting agents had been revoked. It was being made by the Provost Marshals and Second Lieutenants, but there were no Second Lieutenants in the state and the six District Provost Marshals were busy in their office, and men were not going to travel two or three hundred miles at their own expense to join the army. Governor Lewis asked to have the quotas made not before February 1st. His letter goes on to say;

..." That justice may be done our state in the assignment of quotas I would, under the circumstances respectfully ask that the final quota of Wisconsin, under the late call for 300,000 men, may not be assigned until the corrected rolls are received by you, and that the quota of this state may be assigned upon them as corrected. Allow me to say further relative to quotas

that I very much desire when quotas are assigned to this state that some explanation should accompany them. A feeling exists and is gaining ground in the West, and particularly in this state, that the western states have been called upon to furnish more than their due proportion of men".... (110) The he continues to say in regard to the feeling in Wisconsin;

..." This feeling in this state has been very much increased (and I fear will seriously hinder recruiting) by the late action of the Provost Marshal General in assigning the quota under the last call for 300,000 men. The quota sent to the state on the call of 300,000 was nearly the same as the quota previously assigned on 500,000 which we supposed was assigned on the same rolls. This fact without explanations has very much startled the people and very little has been done by way of recruiting"....

The feeling against Colonel Fry grew bitter, and even the state officials expressed their feeling against him. On January 23rd, the quotas were re-assigned and credits were deducted up to December 31st. The quota was apportioned to the several Congressional Districts as follows :

1st. District	1740
2nd "	2291
3rd "	2105
4th "	1632
5th "	2127
6th "	2461

The quota assigned the Sixth District was larger than that of the disloyal ones, and the people of that portion of Wisconsin

became indignant. The members of the Legislature from this district sent in a petition to Governor Lewis on January 30th, 1865, to this effect;

" The undersigned members of the Senate and Assembly from that part of the State of Wisconsin comprised in the Sixth Congressional District, respectfully represent that we believe the quota of 2461 men assigned to said district by the Provost Marshal General under the call of the President of December 19th, 1864, is erroneous; that we believe the quota is very nearly, if not quite, double our just proportion; that owing to the fact of the district covering a large and sparsely settled territory, to wit, twenty four counties, several of which are over 200 miles from the office of the Commissioners of the Board of Enrollment, the enrollment for the year 1863 of said district has not been corrected as yet, although the commissioners have been for several weeks, and will be until the 15th of February, engaged in visiting the several counties for the purpose of giving the people an opportunity to correct the enrollment"...(111)

Colonel Fry it seemed had very little knowledge of the conditions existing in a frontier state like Wisconsin. He was more inclined to look upon the situation as a manifestation of disloyalty. This resolution together with a joint resolution passed by the Legislature asking for the War Department to grant the Governor power to appoint recruiting agents, were sent by the Governor with a letter of his own, to Colonel Fry on February 110. This communication is found in Official Records, s.3, v.4, p. 1040.

111. Ibid. p. 1103.

3rd, 1865. In his own letter the Governor asked for a re-assignment of the quotas based upon the corrections which would be completed by February 15th. All this meant delay and if a draft was going to be used the quota could never be filled until early Summer. Colonel Fry refused to make any change, or grant any time for further corrections, and so the state as well as the district was forced to submit to the injustice.

The Legislature petitioned the Governor to ask that the draft be suspended until April 1st. The date had been changed from February 15th (on which date it was executed in most states) to March 27th. This was also refused. Then the wrath of the people of the state found expression in a Memorial sent to the President of the United States, and signed by the Governor and the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House or Assembly. The Memorial assured the National Government of its loyalty and desire to do its just share, and then it went on to state the facts in regard to the excessive quotas of Wisconsin thus:

" While we do not wish to give utterance to any one sentiment which will impede the work of enlisting, which is now progressing rapidly, thereby indicating in a manner not to be misunderstood not only the willingness but determination of the people everywhere to stand by the present Administration in its efforts to restore peace and restore to unborn millions the glorious institutions of civil and religious liberty, we are compelled to say that, in the opinion of your memorialists, that great injustice has been imposed upon certain states, congressional districts and sub-districts of the country and that such is especially

the case in the State of Wisconsin; that the quota of said state is much too large when considered in the light of proportion to the whole number of men called for, and of her enrolled militia when compared with the aggregate militia of all the states required to make up the complement of 300,000 men"....

The Memorial then charged Colonel Fry with turning a deaf ear to the entreaties of the people and refusing to give explanations to satisfy the disturbed public opinion which was heard everywhere throughout the state. The Memorial went on to say:

" Your memorialists are thereby impressed more thoroughly there is not only a wrong in fact, but that he is conscious of such wrong.

Your memorialists are of the opinion General Fry has a new arithmetic, the principles of which he alone understands; and that by its application when he subtracts the credits which a district is entitled to from the quota required from such district that such quota is thereby enlarged."..

They asked for his removal and that his office be given to a competent person.

On February 23rd the War Department ordered the draft to begin on March 27th in all sub-districts where no effort was being made to fill their quotas. This encouraged recruiting, until Congress passed a law amending the Conscription Act (in February) which compelled the recruit to be credited in the place where he was enrolled. This put a damper on recruiting for a time. In fact some towns in Eastern Wisconsin did not have men

enough left to carry on recruiting. A letter written to the Governor on November 8, 1864, pictures the conditions here as well as pen can describe them. (112)

His Excellency Governor Lewis: Dear Sir;

" I would respectfully ask your aid and sympathy, in behalf of our poor towns in this section if in your power to aid them. For I know you to be a true man to the best interests of our noble, patriotic state, and the whole Union. I would respectfully ask you to prevent a supplementary draft in this district (5th) if possible, as very many of the towns are depopulated. There are none left but old men, boys, cripples, women and children. Many and many of the best farms are returning to a state of nature or worse. It looks sorrowful to see buildings and fences going to ruin, while the rank weeds luxurate in undisturbed possession. You well know this section is true to the Union as the needle to the pole. They have enlisted for the rich towns to such an extent that if they are now compelled to fill their quotas it will take nearly every able bodied man from the district. If you have the power to serve the people in this hour of their extreme need, you will endear yourself to them to the end of their lives, and if you could arrest the cowardly traitors who run when duty calls, the people of this section will load you with their blessings and praise and the people respectfully ask you to recommend in your message to the Legislature, a law to disfranchise all who desert their state and nation when duty calls, and the nation and country asks her children for aid, and that their property be confiscated to the state for the benefit of soldiers, widows

112. Letters from the Governor's Office.

and orphans":....

The Governor answered this pathetic appeal direct from the heart, in the following manner: he told the writer that the matter had been referred to Colonel Lovell and that all would be done that was possible to right the wrong.

The draft commenced in the first district on March 27th, in the 3rd on March 28th, in the 5th on April 1st, and was in the process of execution when the glorious news of Lee's surrender stopped all recruiting. The Sixth District had no draft at all as the enrollment was not yet completed. The people had lost all interest and one would hardly know that a draft was on by looking over the newspapers. After the surrender of Lee two armies came home to Wisconsin, one from the East covered with glory, and one from Canada covered with shame. In fact many of the skidadlers returned home to vote and then fled again to evade the officers. Dr. Crane reports that one-half the voters in some towns were skidadlers.

During the short time the draft was on 1325 were drafted, and 1140 substitutes were offered. Most all drafted men entered infantry regiments and they usually proved to be good soldiers.

Some of them (279) went into the 1st cavalry regiment.

Recapitulation.

Total drafted men during the war.

District.	1863--65.	1862.
1	2315	275
2	1080	27
3	1572	60
4	1995	423

5	2129	201
6	1598	32
<hr/>		
Total	10689	721

Conclusions.

As a means of raising troops in itself, the Conscription Act was a failure. The stimulation it gave to recruiting alone justified it. In a state like Wisconsin, with its frontier conditions and its foreign element, the task of carrying on the draft was made doubly hard. It is probable that much trouble arose because of the failure of the War Department to familiarize themselves with the actual conditions here. Their demands while not unreasonable, did not fit the conditions prevailing in the state. No doubt the draft would have been more efficient with more soldiers here to execute it, and to arrest those who fled. The skidaddlers were not dealt with severely enough. As to whether Wisconsin would have done better without a draft it seems hardly probable, as opposition to the Administration would have interfered with volunteering. The work of the officers who had the unhappy job of enforcing the draft was without question fair and just and they did the best they could under the circumstances. The fact that the Sixth District was compelled to furnish more men per population than any other district of the state, and probably as many as any district in the United States was no discredit to them. The cause can be found in the economic conditions and the total lack of military preparation in the state.

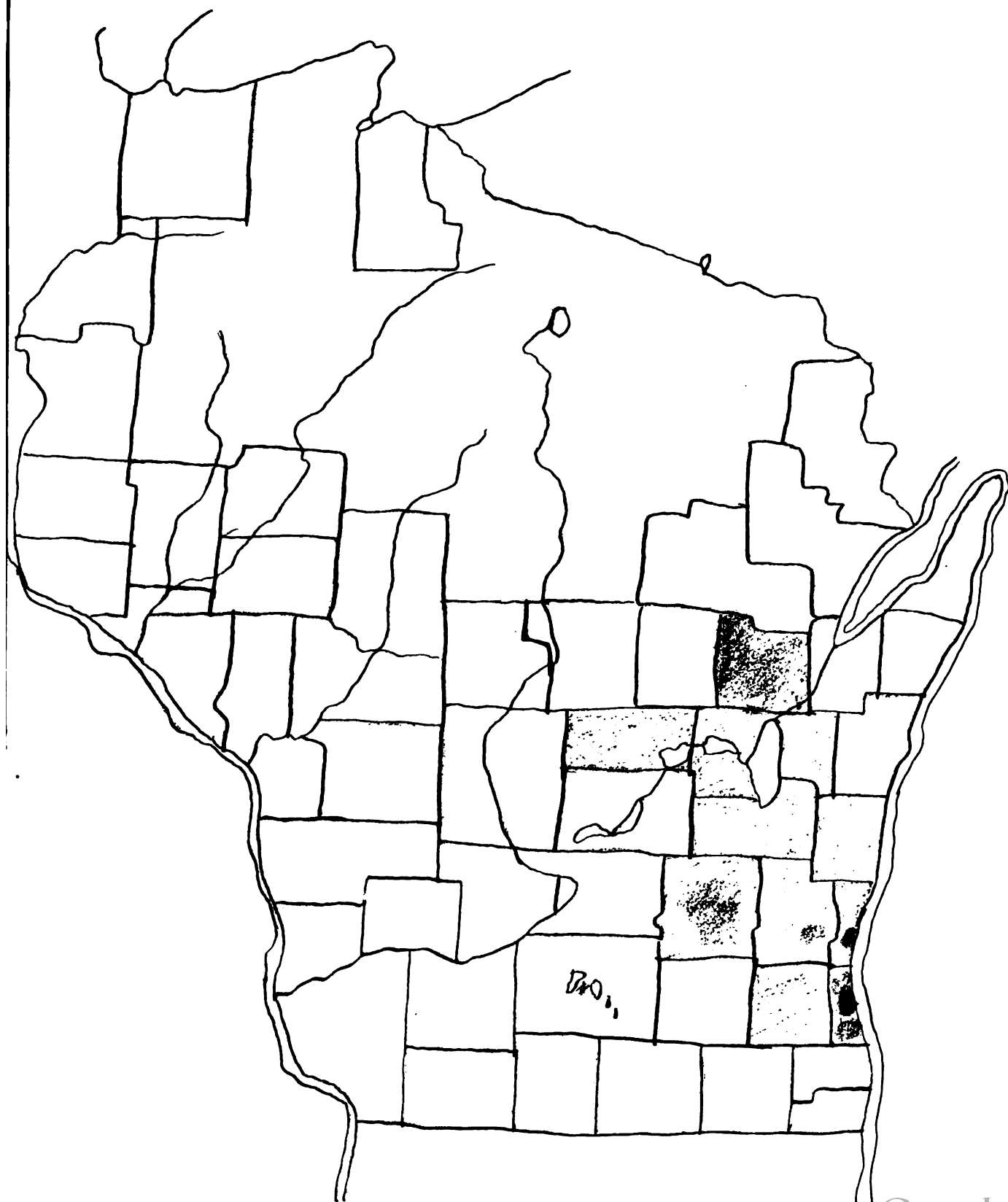
RECAPITULATION.

	No. drawn.	Failed to report.	discharged quota full.	Total discharge.	No. examin ed.
July 1863.	14935	2697	64	2761	12174
July 1864.	20804	7901	967	8869	11933
Dec. 1864.	2656	1144	449	1593	1063
	37795	11742		13223	55110

	Person ally held.	Substitutes.	Paid comm. money.	Aliens.	Non-res- idents.
July 1863.	627	245	5080	847	228
July 1864.	2875	1269	16	842	607
Dec. 1864.	220	107	1	89	22
		1121	5097		

Total No. failing to report. 11,742

On the map on the opposite page is shown the region having a large foreign population. The counties shaded green were largely German, with other nationalities mixed in. The red shows the regions where resistance was offered to the draft.



Bro.

Approved

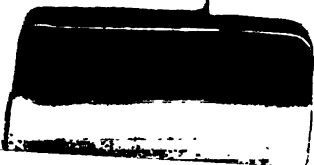
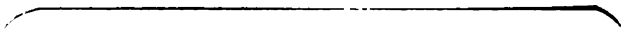
-----Carl Russell Felt-----

May 8, 1965

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